



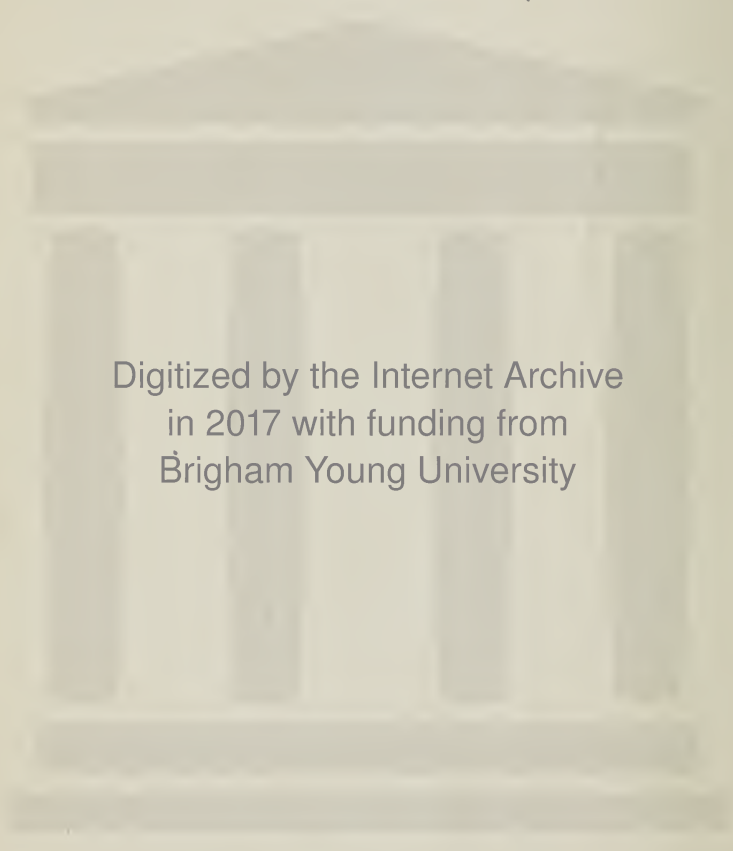
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THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL  
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THE JOHN WATTS DEPEYSTER  
PUBLICATION FUND

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OF

THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR

1920

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THE JOHN WATTS DEPEYSTER  
PUBLICATION FUND SERIES

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NEW YORK:  
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THE LETTERS AND PAPERS  
OF  
CADWALLADER COLDEN

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VOLUME IV

1748—1754



*From Governor George Clinton*

NEW YORK 2<sup>d</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1747

Sir

This day I have ordered the Writts for New Election to bear Tent & to be returnable in 40 Days which is y<sup>e</sup> 12 of Feb<sup>ry</sup> next as I conceive there will be occasion to call the Assembly then, upon the affairs of the intended Expedition aga<sup>t</sup> Crown point w<sup>ch</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Shirly seems to have at Hart, But as the Assembly of y<sup>t</sup> Province has made some Amendments & the Agreement enter'd into here by the Commisss<sup>s</sup> y<sup>t</sup> mett to concert Measures on y<sup>t</sup> head, I am apt to think this Assembly will Scarcely ratifie those Amendments w<sup>ch</sup> I have inclosed however it will be necessary for me to make tryal, I find the Spirit & Designs of the Faction takes much with the People, that I dispair of any alteration here, Jon has never been near me Since the Dissolution & his reason for not appearing is That y<sup>e</sup> Ord<sup>rs</sup> to the Militia have so inured the People y<sup>t</sup> they are determind to make Choice of the Faction again & indeed the Mayor has told me y<sup>e</sup> same. How matters may go in the Country I cannot Say, But this I am certain off, That y<sup>e</sup> moment they begin to Treat me ill I'll Send them packing. I am very desirous to avoid giveing them any handle, & Therefore should be glad you would prepare an agreeable Speech to them, y<sup>t</sup> I may convince the people I have no Malice at Hart, You are a good Judge of what is to be recommended & I think it proper to demand my Support from 1<sup>st</sup> of Septemb<sup>r</sup> last with all my appointments, to mention the compleating y<sup>e</sup> House & Stables, & Sundry disbursements to y<sup>e</sup> Indians for Scalps & passage of y<sup>e</sup> New Levys to Albany to make provision for Expresses for which I am much out of pockit The affairs of y<sup>e</sup> Indians to be Strongly recommended & to make provision for them & for y<sup>e</sup> Smiths y<sup>t</sup> were sent among them who Coll<sup>l</sup> John-

son Supplied with every thing y<sup>t</sup> was Necessary, provision made for a Command<sup>r</sup> Officer even y<sup>e</sup> Compan<sup>ys</sup> y<sup>t</sup> are raised & to be raised in y<sup>e</sup> pay of y<sup>e</sup> Province I am in hopes of getting 3 Companies from Connecticut w<sup>ch</sup> should be mentioned y<sup>e</sup> Fort at Albany to be repaired & provision made for Powder & victualling & pay for y<sup>e</sup> Troops at Oswego if any thing Else occurs to you take notice of it.

I should have been glad of Mr Catherwoods waiting on you, but the affaires of the Officers & other Matters dayly are such y<sup>t</sup> I cannot Spare him; But as I shall want Mr Colden y<sup>e</sup> Commissary here, you may send down by him the Speech when done.

There has been no news from England Since you went away, I am to acknowledge y<sup>e</sup> favours of yours & shall transmitt the minuts you mention. Mr Murry & Horsmanden was to wait on Maj<sup>r</sup> Rutherfurd y<sup>e</sup> night he came down from Albany & drank a bottle with him I guess with some good view but I take Rutherfurd to be to much a Man of Honour to be deluded by Such Wretchess

Mr<sup>s</sup> Clintons Miss &<sup>c</sup> Compliments with mine wait upon Mr<sup>s</sup> Colden, You & Family & wish you a Happy New Year & many We begun it yesterday with ab<sup>t</sup> Sixty and Merry we was & hope to y<sup>e</sup> Satisfaction of y<sup>e</sup> Young Assembly, I am with great Sincerity

Sir

Your friend & Servant

G CLINTON

J Murray has not been to see  
me neither X<sup>mas</sup> or yesterday

y<sup>t</sup> I am to Expect no favour from y<sup>t</sup> \* \* \* \*

*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*

[Copy]

[January, 1747/8]

I have the honour of your Excell<sup>ys</sup> Commands of the  
2<sup>d</sup> Instant Several are making interest in this County



for the next Elections In a few days I shall be able to form some Judgem<sup>t</sup> who are likely to carry them but it seems still generally agreed that Col Gaasbeek can have little hopes It is agreed in Orange County to set up Col Mathews in opposition to Gale Col. Dukey who was formerly much in Gale's Interest is now as much to the contrary.

I evidently see the necessity of the Assembly's meeting as soon as possible & I am entirely of your Excellency's Opinion that your speech should be in as smooth terms as possible to preserve your Dignity & that not the least mention be made of any past difference As your Excellency has allow'd me time I shall exercise my thoughts on that head so as to express what may be proper to say on that occasion in the most concise & easy terms that I can think of I shall in obedience to your Excell<sup>ys</sup> commands send my son to New York about the beginning of Feb<sup>ry</sup> & shall send my thoughts by him

As I have no copy of the Agreem<sup>t</sup> I cannot judge of the amendments made at Boston but I believe the Assembly will be puzzled in their resolutions in either agreeing to the Amendment or in refusing The taking of Crown point is exceedingly popular & they may therefor risque their popularity w<sup>ch</sup> they have so much at heart by refusing to consent to the amendments unless the reasons for refusing be very apparently sufficient If they be not so they may not only loose themselves with the people but give the people of Boston an Opportunity of setting their conduct in no good light with his Majesty's ministers & which I am confident the People of Boston will not fail to do in order to inhance their own merit

On the other hand I am perswaded that the Assembly will find themselves under such difficulties in the Execution of this Agreem<sup>t</sup> that they will gladly get of from it if they can The greatest difficulty I apprehend will be in raising their Quota of men & this may some time hereafter give your Excell<sup>y</sup> a handsom opportunity of exposing the obstinacy of the last assembly in refusing to retain the New levies on the terms your Excell<sup>y</sup> pro-

posed My humble opinion with submission is that your Excellency should press this affair only in general terms but so as to appear in good earnest for it & then to leave the Assembly entirely to themselves to proceed in what manner they shall think proper because I believe it will be hardly possible to extricate themselves from the difficulties which may arise in their resolutions & therefore perhaps may be glad of finding out some method of freeing themselves from those difficulties by raising some new dispute As to my part I can have no opinion of the success of any interprise at this time if the New England officers & men be such as we have in this Province

As I believe it will be difficult for them to give Satisfaction on all hands I doubt not but from thence your Excell<sup>y</sup> may take a good handle to try a New Election if you shall think proper

As to J-n's excuse I am perswaded it is a meer excuse for before that of the Militia happen'd I was assured by M<sup>r</sup> Nicholls & others that his Interest was declining & as to the Mayor he has been too short a while in the City to have gain'd any considerable interest against such an opposition as is now made

Your Excellency's having made this trial of the Militia I thought & do still think will sufficiently justify your Excellency in case of any sinister accident from the Ennemy which could not so easily have been done without something of this kind since a neighbouring Colony Connecticut make it a constant practise to have a certain number of men in their Militia in constant readiness to march on any emergency who are thereby excused from all other Duty This trial will likewise shew to the ministry what dependance there is on the Militia Several have been attempting to introduce the practise of the men's choosing their own officers as has been lately done in Philadelphia of which there has happen'd a very late instance on Orange County these attempts will help to demonstrate the inclinations of the People in America to deprive the King of the power of the Militia

I am very certain Maj<sup>r</sup> Rutherford was hearty in your



Interest & not only disliked but despised the opposition he was for going through & making our selves easy at least in the Council with out which he thought we must be under perpetual difficulties

I can hardly doubt of your Exc<sup>cy</sup> receiving such accounts from home as may give a great turn to affairs here I have known an entire change in a few hours by a vessels arriving from England.

We have a report here that a Neutrality between the six Nations & French Indians is agreed upon that neither of them shall make incursions into Canada nor into this Province Its possible this may have been without your Excell<sup>ys</sup> being in any manner inform'd of it If so our assembly may have any Interprise agt Crown point less at heart & it may be more difficult to engage the Indians.

---

*From Benjamin Franklin*

PHILAD<sup>a</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 27, 1747.

Dear Sir

I have received your Favour relating to the Cannon. We have petitioned our Proprietors for some, and have besides wrote absolutely to London for a Quantity, in case the Application to the Proprietors should not Succeed; So that, Accidents excepted, we are Sure of being Supply'd some time next Summer. But as we are extremely desirous of having some mounted early in the Spring, and perhaps your Engineer should propose to use all you have, the Works he may intend will not very Soon be ready to receive them, we should think ourselves exceedingly oblig<sup>ed</sup> to your Government, if you could lend us a few for one Year only: When you return to New York, I hope a great Deal from your Interest & Influence.

Mr Read, to whom Osborne consigned your Books, did not open or offer them to Sale till within these two Weeks, being about to remove when he receiv'd them,

and having till now no Conveniency of Shelves, &c.—In our two last Papers he has advertis'd generally that he has a parcel of Books to Sell, Greek, Latin, French & English, but makes no particular Mention of the Indian History; it is therefore no Wonder that he has sold none of them, as he told me a few days since. I had but one of them from London, which I sent you before any of my Friends Saw it. So, as no one here has read it but myself, I can only tell you my own Opinion that 'tis a well wrote, entertaining & instructive Piece, and must be exceedingly usefull to all those Colonies who have anything to do with Indian Affairs.

You have reason to be pleas'd with the Mathematicians envio[us?] Expression about your Tract on Gravitation. I long to see from Europe some of the deliberate & mature Thoughts of their Philosophers upon it.

To obtain some Leisure, I have taken a Partner into the Printing House but tho' I am thereby a good deal disengag'd from private Business I find myself still fully occupy'd. The Association, Lottery, Batteries, etc. take up at present great Part of my Time. I thank you for . . . Sheet on the first Principles of Morality, the Continuation . . . glad . . . If this reaches you at Coldengham, . . . which I much want . . . wish for the sake of all these . . . meet the Governor in better Terms. . . . [Indorsed]

To  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Coldengham

Free  
B FRANKLIN.

---

*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*  
[Copy]

COLDENGHAM Jan<sup>ry</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1747/8

Your Excellency will receive the Draught of a Speech inclosed which I have endeavour'd to frame not only so as

to give no ground of offence but likewise to leave no room for the Cavils of the most malevolent For this reason it is made as short as I could contrive it so as not to appear indifferent as to the matters for which they are called together at this time.

Your Excell<sup>y</sup> no doubt has observ'd that by the 11<sup>th</sup> Article of the Agreement between the Com<sup>rs</sup> of the 3 Colonies a diversion was to be made in order to prevent the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada sending his whole force to the relief of Crown point This seems to me so necessary & the success of the Interprise to depend so much upon it that I think this defect ought to be supplied some other way & I can think of no other method by w<sup>ch</sup> it can be supplied but by sending in numerous parties of Indians upon all quarters of Canada which necessarily must oblige them to keep the greatest part of their force if not their whole force to defend their own settlements & without something of this kind I cannot see what can hinder the whole force of Canada from marching to the relief of that fortress And I doubt much if the forces that can at this time be employ'd by the Colonies can well be suppos'd equal to an equal number of the ennemy considering the vast difference in discipline & perhaps in arms too between the one & the other. It seems to me necessary that you should signify your opinion on this head very distinctly to M<sup>r</sup> Shirley for your own justification what ever may happen For it seems not prudent in your Excellency to express your sentiments on this head openly in your Speech I have put this in the best terms I could conceive

I cannot conceive what pretensions Morris can have to a Mediator The best are that of being indifferent in the dispute & in the confidence of both parties His pretensions must be that neither side will trust him otherwise than as a proper tool to deceive in which both may equally think him Capable

The Elections in this County have gon as I desir'd. We have two New Members viz Abraham Harsbrook & Johannes Janse I hope they will both prove good. On



the pole Coll Gaasbeek had but 20 votes when the others had 97 & he found the difference continually encreasing till he threw up. No money nor pains nor artifice was saved to get Gaasbeek in & I am perswaded the Sheriff was bribed For if he had not surprised us by setting a short day & keeping the notice as much as possible from me till within five days of the day of Election we should have had a better man in the room of One of them We did not know our strength till after the pole was begun & we were affray'd of any division among our friends lest Gaasbeek should get in by that means.

It is surprising what vile stories were spread every where in this part of the Country even viler than that vile hackney scribler has dar'd to belch out & the minds of the People were strangely affected by them But since I came home & have had opportunity of informing my friends & by their means other parts of the County The people are so far changed that the Electors of our New Representatives openly declared in your Excellency's favour & in opposition to the late Assembly at the time of the Election This shows what may be don if proper pains were taken but while all the care possible is taken to spread every aspersion & villainous paper levell'd agt your Excellency's Character & others in the administration & the very officers of the Gov<sup>t</sup> are principally employ'd in this dirty work what can be expected from the People This shows that more care ought to be taken to inform the People truely & to disperse the papers wrote in Vindication of the Administration It shews at the same time the ill consequences of giving up the nomination to officers to the assembly & every thing whereby any benefite can be obtain'd or men engaged to take sides

Inclosed your Excellency will find some remarks on the printed letter to your Excellency if you approve of it I think it will be best to have it printed both in the News papers & by it self which may easily be don without setting the press a new I think what I now send may be comprehended in one sheet of print. That by it self to

be printed off first & then the printer may either carry the whole into one news paper or he may divide into two according to the breaks left in the Copy & this may be done without breaking the press & with little trouble. If it be printed I wish that 2 doz<sup>n</sup> of copies be at least sent to me that I may disperse them One Copy to be sent to each assembly man Some to Hicks upon Long Island & other friends The Post rider to disperse others & a sufficient number dispersed about town As soon as I can have time & free from my present discomposure of mind I shall go on with it

Last friday I had an express from New York informing me that my Daughter De Lancey's life was despair'd of Till I know her fate my mind cannot be easy Poor Woeman she has had trials of patience on my account

As it seems absolutely necessary for good Gov<sup>t</sup> that those who are at much pains to distinguish themselves should in like manner be distinguished I must tell your Excellency that one John Bayard Capt<sup>n</sup> of the Company of Militia in the precinct where I live has been an indefatigable tool to spread the most villainous reports of your Excell<sup>y</sup> & that therefore it is inconsistent with the honour of Gov<sup>t</sup> to suffer him to continue longer in that employment None of the subalterns tho honest men are fit persons to have the command of that company & therefor I am forced to avoid greater inconveniencies to propose my son Cadwallader for that Commission in his place as I cannot name any other but who might create some disgust & none of the subalterns will take this amiss.

Coll Gaasbeek recommended Ephraim Watkins to be second Lieutenant & Patrick M<sup>c</sup> Claghry to be Ensign in the Comp<sup>y</sup> commanded by Capt<sup>n</sup> Tho. Ellison in hopes I suppose to gain their Interest They have both of them behaved bravely in opposition to him & are fit persons & therefore I must desire their commiss<sup>ns</sup> There will be a necessity of considering the Commissions of this County further when I shall have more time & opportunity to think properly of them

My Son's business at home & the season of the year may make it very inconvenient for him to stay any time at New York & my desire to hear soon from thence will lay an obligation on me by having him soon dismissed.

My age the cold season bad roads & bad lodgeing makes me much averse to travilling by land & therefore I hope your Excell<sup>y</sup> will excuse my attendance at New York till I can travil by Water The house cannot be supposed to go on business sooner than the 20th & there is good reason to expect as the river has not been once fast this year at my son's in a few days afterwards the Sloops may be going to New York Perhaps the publick affairs may go more smoothly by my absence because they would gladly throw all the blame on me But as to this I shall be entirely directed by your Excell<sup>ys</sup> pleasure.

*From Governor George Clinton*

NEW YORK 31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1747

Sir

I am favoured with yours of 24<sup>th</sup> Inst w<sup>th</sup> my Speech inclosed by your Son, who I shall dispatch as soon as possible & I give you Joy of M<sup>rs</sup> DeLancys recovery.

I have now a new Scar to open to you at w<sup>ch</sup> I am greatly moved. The day before Yesterday Waddle arrived from London & brought me a Notification from y<sup>e</sup> Dukes of Newcastle that Chief Justice D<sup>e</sup> Lancey was appointed Leu<sup>t</sup> Govern<sup>r</sup> of this Province & by a letter from S<sup>r</sup> Peter I find it was obtained by his means who has insinuated so far to His Grace y<sup>t</sup> we were upon good tirms together, & by y<sup>e</sup> means of a Defamation w<sup>ch</sup> has been lodged ag<sup>st</sup> you in England by their Faction & their Partys here, which has Succeeded so far, y<sup>t</sup> I am wholly disappointed in my Expectations of what I was confident I could Secure to you, & I persuade myself you think I've done you Justice in y<sup>t</sup> Respect, as you had y<sup>e</sup> penning of y<sup>e</sup> recommendations w<sup>ch</sup> I transmitted to His Grace in y<sup>r</sup> behalf The Commiss<sup>n</sup> is to be with me till I think



proper to diliver it in order to keep him to his good behaviour, & I find by his Discourse he has directions from home to assist me & to make things Easier The Assembly is to meet Soon, I shall have a triale of his Conduct with them my Leave of Absence is come over, but I have fixed upon no time as yet for going, nor will I leave y<sup>e</sup> Province before I see you in some way or other Secured from y<sup>e</sup> Resentment of y<sup>r</sup> Enymies, in y<sup>e</sup> mean time you may depend upon my Endeavours of doing you all y<sup>e</sup> Justice Imaginable with his Grace in Vindication of Your Character.

I approve of y<sup>e</sup> hint you give me y<sup>t</sup> perhaps y<sup>e</sup> publick business may go on more Smoothly in your Absence for some time, and shall dispencc therewith till I see how y<sup>e</sup> Chief Justice intends to proceed, nevertheless you may depend upon my Endeavours to serve you or any of your Family for y<sup>e</sup> Services you have done me.

I shall write more fully by your son a Ship will go in a fortnight for Lond<sup>n</sup> & any thing you have a mind to say in your own Vindication to His Grace or L<sup>ds</sup> of Trade I will take care it is deliverd but let it be as short as possible. All our Compliments waits on you & Family & I am with a great deal of Sincerity

Dear Sir

Your friend & very humble

P. S.

Servant

G CLINTON

y<sup>e</sup> Scarborough was not arrived when y<sup>e</sup> most material things went but what I fear most is y<sup>t</sup> S. P. bribes y<sup>e</sup> cl<sup>ks</sup> y<sup>t</sup> my letters are not diliverd, & y<sup>t</sup> Leu<sup>t</sup> Gover<sup>r</sup> Clark has had a share of giving Characters but whilst there is Life there is hopes for if I can get my Accounts Settled I will send Catherwood away by this oppertunity for London.

[Indorsed]

To

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>



*A Message from the Indians at Paumittunnawseu a Place near Detroit to the River Indians, of the County of Albany, & also them of New England.*

My Father, your son is here Crying. A Father will Hear when his Son cries; and he Will understand his Voice: & if he be Crying behind him, knowing His Voice he will turn about to see, whats the Matter

My Father at Mahekun, some years agoe I sent you a Pipe; but have heard nothing from you since

My Father at Mahekun, I have already compass<sup>d</sup> the Frenchman round & laid close siege to Him Wherever he peeps out I kill him. He is so Strongly fortified, that I cannot take Him. I can only starve Him Out.

My Child, Your Father hears your Cries, being himself in poor miserable Circumstances by reason of the distresses of the War.

When I lie down at Night, I am afraid I shall not live, till Morning, & when I rise up in the Morning I am afraid I shall not live till night, I am so harrass'd with the War.

What you told me of the Wind blowing is now come to pass, which is the occasion of my Calamities.

In answer to your Message, I reply; you are grown up to be quite a Man. When I was a Man in My full strength I used to carry my Hatchet with me. If any Body offered me an injury I was ready to revenge it.

I tell you further, if you are reduced to such distress that you are ready to Perish, and remember our Relation to each other, you know that Relation is true & firm.

This is the answer from the River Indians to the Message on the other side: returned this presents.

Feb<sup>y</sup> 1747/8

*Colden's Draft of the Speech of Governor George Clinton to the General Assembly of New York, February 21, 1747/8 Is Omitted Here for the Reason That it Is Printed in "Journal of the General Assembly of New York," Volume II, Page 223*

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*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*  
[Copy]

Feb<sup>ry</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1747/8

To his Excellency

Since I had the Honour of your Excellency's of the 31<sup>st</sup> of last month no opportunity has offer'd to New York till now.

I must own that I was moved with the account your Excell<sup>y</sup> gave me in it but when I consider'd how much more reason your Excell<sup>y</sup> had to be moved I thought it became me to bear any disappointment with patience Upon cool reflection, however contrary to expectation this event may be yet now it has happen'd I do not think that there is any thing surprising in it The Duke's time is so exceedingly engaged in affairs of greatest importance that he can have litle or no time to reflect on our publick affairs The opinion he may have of S<sup>r</sup> Peter may easily incline him to favour a proposal by which your Excell<sup>y</sup> was to be made easy & the Duke himself freed from trouble & this the more likely to happen while he was not fully informed of what has happen'd in this country

However this be your Excell<sup>y</sup> is not thereby reduced to any necessity of making compliances unbecoming you If you please to read over the powers granted your Excell<sup>y</sup> by your Commission you'll find you have power sufficient to rectify every thing & if your Excell<sup>y</sup> should return to England the past proceedings will justify your Excell<sup>y</sup> with the most severe judge I have many reasons to think that the generality of the people are not

pleas'd with the change Many openly speak their Sentiments & I believe many are of the same opinion who through timorousness do not care to speak. If then any unreasonable or dishonourable terms should be insisted on I am of opinion a Dissolution would occasion a greater change in the Assembly than could have happen'd if this apointment had not been made But of this your Excell<sup>y</sup> may be better inform'd from J-n & Al-r However this be I hope your Excell<sup>y</sup> can never comply with the most dishonourable part of the worst terms that can be offer'd that is of restoring the infamous scribler to any power of exerting his Malice otherwise than by his vile pen which must soon want ink if your Excell<sup>y</sup> do not enable him to go on

As to what relates to my self I entirely depend on your Excell<sup>ys</sup> honour Your Excell<sup>y</sup> knows that I enter'd into your service with reluctancy from the apprehensions I had of some peoples tempers. I hope your Excell<sup>y</sup> believes that I have serv'd you with Integrity & if I have fail'd in any advice it did not proceed from any failure of the heart I take confidence from this that your Excell<sup>y</sup> will neglect nothing in your power that may be of use to me or my family

I am very anxious for my son's return because I cannot make use of the opportunity for England of which you inform me till I hear more particularly from your Excell<sup>y</sup> as you gave me hopes I should by my son His affairs at home likewise suffer by his absence I must therefor beg of your Excell<sup>y</sup> to dispatch him as soon as possible The bearer of this is to return in a few days

---

*Cadwallader Colden to Richard Nicholls*

[Copy]

[Undated, on same sheet as above]

To Mr Nicholls

I have had but a few hours notice of this oppertunity by Mr Ebenezer Seely & as I am obliged to write to the

Gov<sup>r</sup> I must be the shorter to you I am no way surprised with the News w<sup>ch</sup> came with your last to my son. I knew the chances that attended the Game. I am not sorry nor can I blame my self for any part I had in it Perhaps it is better as it has turn'd than if it had been otherwise. You need be under no difficulty in writing freely of occurrences the bad as well as the good for I am now return'd to my Philosophy

In the chest which my wife order'd to your house last fall all the money I had by me except a little w<sup>ch</sup> she kept for daily expence was put into it Now a good safe hand wants a hundred pound of me on Interest Some part of it has been long useless by me for want of such where I can trust it. If you can spare a hundred pounds without any inconveniency to your self till the sloops run I shall be obliged to you if you will pay a hundred pounds to the bearer M<sup>r</sup> Ebenezer Seely & take his receipt for it on my Account & to be deliver'd to me Our son Alexander designs to send down 10 or 12 Tuns of flower by the first sloop I suppose he may want a £100 of the produce of that flower please to send back my chest by the return of that Sloop & I shall pay him the £ 100 which you now send by Seely & if you keep so much of his money to pay what you now send the doing of which may save trouble to both of us

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*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*  
[Copy]

March 2<sup>d</sup> 1747-8

After I had the honour of your Excellency's of the last of January I expected my son's return every day by whom your Excell<sup>y</sup> was pleas'd to say you would write more particularly than you did at that time. This was the reason that I did not send one on purpose with an answer as my son since his return tells me your Excell<sup>y</sup> expected. I believ'd that your Excell<sup>y</sup> had not come to



any final & certain resolutions at the time of your writing & till I knew them I could not tell in what manner to write to the Duke At the same time I believ'd any letter from me could have but little weight with his Grace but as it was inforc'd by the resolutions your Excell<sup>y</sup> should take as to the future conduct of affairs of which from your letter I thought your Excell<sup>y</sup> was not fully determin'd. I hope your Excell<sup>y</sup> has receiv'd one from me of the 14<sup>th</sup> of last month in which I declared my entire confidence in your honour & I now with pleasure repeat it that as I have endeavour'd to serve your Excell<sup>y</sup> to the best of my ability I have the satisfaction to think your Excell<sup>y</sup> was allwise satisfied in the sincerity of my Intentions for your Service & for that reason I remain assured in my own mind that your Excell<sup>y</sup> will neglect nothing in your power that may be for my advantage & I hope your Excell<sup>y</sup> believes that I continue in a firm resolution to serve you in whatever manner you shall think proper to employ me. I am told that a ship is to sail for London some time this month I must now beg to know from your Excell<sup>y</sup> in what manner it may be proper for me to make use of that opportunity of writing & if your Excell<sup>y</sup> think proper to let me know your pleasure by the return of the bearer of this I shall send my son with my letters to your Excell<sup>y</sup> that they may receive your Excell<sup>ys</sup> approbation before they are sent The bearer of this comes with a petition for the Grant of some land of which M<sup>r</sup> Nicholls will inform your Excell<sup>y</sup> more particularly

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK March 7<sup>th</sup> 1747/8

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

The Inclosed I wrote in haste to go with a packet from Collinson Containing a Letter to you from him with 2 of your Indian History, but it was Left behind, be-

cause it was too bigg, whereforeas there's no necessity of sending the two Books till Boats go, I tho't best to Inclose the Letter herein to you.

As I have been So long Absent in Jersey, and Taken up with Congratulations Since I Came home, I know of no news of this place to write—Inclosed I Send you par-ker's paper of toDay, which Shows the particulars of what's Concluded about the Jersey Rioters—and hoping it won't be disagreeable, I shall here add something further Concerning the Rioters.

I believe you'll wonder how the Cry of the Rioters Came to be Raised against the proprietors, when you are Informed how little Cause they had for it. They Said the only Spring of their motion at the Beginning was the frauds and abuses put upon them by the proprietors, and that it was Notoriously known that the proprietors Sold the same Lands two or three times, and that Multitudes were So Imposed on, &c.

To This Charge the proprietors Answered by their publication of March 25<sup>th</sup> 1746. Absolutely denying it. And Challenging them to Assign any Instances, but in three Cases there pointed out, in which the proprietors therein Showed they were not Guilty, on the Contrary, had done their utmost to prevent peoples being Imposed on by them, and Denied that (even in all of these three Cases) fifty persons had been Imposed on in fifty years, which fell far Short of the whole Country (Consisting of upwards of 50,000 people) which they Said were imposed on.

From that time to the finishing of the Session was time Enough to have Gathered proofs of their Charge, which they were so Challenged to prove; and accordingly at the Beginning of the Session, and from time to time during the Sitting of it, They Laid before the Legislature Numbers of papers of Complaints and Affidavits for proof thereof, all which were duely weighed and Considered both by the Council and Assembly, and the whole proofs did not make it appear any one Case, from the Settlement of New Jersey in 1665 to this day Where the

proprietors had Sold the Same Land twice, nor that any Single proprietors had so ever done but where Compensation Either was had or may as yet be had by the ordinary Course of the Law, and as to the three Cases Excepted the proofs did not make it appear that Six persons had been imposed on by them without Recompense, which fell far Short of fifty, the Latitude which the proprietors took in their Challenge on that head.

As I think it must be a wonder to See Such a Cry raised, and So many Riots, Treasons and Disturbances Committed by people in Consequences of their belief of the Cry, when it was So Groundless. So I think it's no less a wonder that the proprietors of East Jersey, (who in the year 1682 were 24 in Number, and Continually Encreasing in Number Since, by Selling parts of their Shares,) should in all that time have so Comported themselves, that no one thing unjust or unrighteous, Either to White or Indian people Could be proved on them, Though Numerous Slanders in respect to both were Spread of them by the Rioters and by their printed papers, which were fully answered by the proprietors three publications, and Mr Nevill's Speeches, of which I believe you had Coppies before you went from hence, at Least I ordered James Parker to give you them. Nor have the Rioters Attempted to Deny any material fact of all these publications, Except one fact in the first publication, which fact by Affidavit printed in the proprietors Second publication was proved true. No Cause Can be assigned for the Last wonder, but the Check that the Council of proprietors has over the particular proprietors, by Stopping their Dividends, Till they have done whats Just in Relation to their proprietors, whenever they have notice of any Diviation from Justice Concerning them, for no Doubt on't they are as other men, Some Good, Some bad.

I have now Got over by the Oswego the 8<sup>th</sup> and Ninth Volumes of the Abridgement of the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society which bring them to 1744. and I have Got the particular transactions Since the



Abridgement's End, in which there are many very Curious things. One is a Discovery from Tonquin, which Joins to China, That Musk is a Specifick for all Spasms, Convulsions and putrid fevers,—musk has been Long known to be Good in these, but Seldom above half a Grain of it was Given in any Dose, Whereas it's found it Can be safely administred from 10 to 24 Grains in a Dose. One Very remarkable Cure amongst many others mentioned, was, that One was Expiring, his Legs Cold, and his teeth Shut, So that Nothing Could be administred at the mouth, the Phisitian for a tryall, ordered a Glisten Strong with Musk, which Recovered the patient. The way of operation is by Sweat and Sleep—one has Slept 36 hours with it at a time, when the patient wakes he finds himself Refreshed, and not with that wearyness that Opium Leaves—It Cures the Hidrophobia, in its worst State, Maniacks, Hystericks, &c

The Draught of the preceeding was so blotted that I got it Copied as before—My humble Service to M<sup>rs</sup> Colden & all your family—I remain

Your most obedient &  
most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JA. ALEXANDER.

[Indorsed]  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup>

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Coldingham.

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*From Alexander Colden*

LONDON March 17<sup>th</sup> 1748

Dear Uncle

I am very glad to hear from M<sup>r</sup> Collinson of your Wellfare, but it would very much oblige me to hear of it from yourself I take this opportunity to return you my Thanks for the Treatise you have favoured the Publick with upon Philosophy, as it shews a Mind sincerely disposed to enquire after Truth, I got a Pamphlet which

was publshd here last Spring by a Countryman of your own entitled the Principles of Philosophy, with a Design to send it to you, but M<sup>r</sup> Collinson who takes a particular Pleasure in obliging you, would send you one at his own Expence, I was favourd lately with a Reading of a Pamphlet upon the same Subject & upon the same Principles by an Acquaintance of mine & I tryd all the Shops in Town for a Copy to send you but not meeting with any I was oblidge to apply to the Author who made me a Present of one for your use, & desird me to send his Compliments to you at the same Time & acquaint you that you would very much oblidge him if you would write him your Sentiments upon it, as the Principles in both are quite different from Sir Isaac's I thought a View of them might be agreeable to you, if the reading of them affords you any Entertainment, or any Assistance in your Enquiries, I shall obtain what I aim, if they should not prove agreeable to you I think I can answer for the Authors of both that they will retract any thing they have advanced so soon as they are convinced of its being false or without a sufficient foundation in Fact, I cannot omit this opportunity of acquainting you with the obligations I am under to you for the Favours, I have received from M<sup>r</sup> Collinson, indeed he wants no other Inducement to do good Offices, but his natural Benevolence, however as he could have no other Motive to serve me at my coming here but my Relation to you, I look upon myself as indebted to you for his Favour, the last Letter I had from my Father was about a fortnight ago, he & his Family were all well then, he has been expecting a Letter from you of a long Time, I hope you'll give my Compliments to my Aunt & Cousins I am

Dear Uncle

Your oblidge & affectionate Nephew

ALEX COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
at New York.

*Notes on reverse side of Alexander Colden's letter of  
March 17, 1748*

[In handwriting of Cadwallader Colden]

p 3 how do you prove that matter is incapable of Action I think on the Contrary we know nothing of Matter but what are the effects of its action on our senses To Act & to rule over or to direct are not synonymous terms

p 11 What the Author calls air must be what I call ether what is commonly call'd air is not certainly every where & does not permeate all the interstices of bodies.

p 12 Every one of his Positions want proof tho they be the first principles of his system

p 14 His Definition of Light & Darkness is absolutely unintelligible to me Tho the Treatise called Experimental Philosophy asserted be introduced with certain truths & good reasoning yet it is in its first principles liable to objections which I cannot surmount

*Cadwallader Colden to Duke of Newcastle*

[Copy]

NEW YORK March 21<sup>st</sup> 1747/8

My Lord

By a letter from S<sup>r</sup> Peter Warren to his Excell<sup>y</sup> our Gov<sup>r</sup> & from some other incidents I have reason to think that my conduct in the publick affairs of this province has been set in a bad light I am sufficiently sensible of what small consequence I am in my private capacity & how litle any thing relating to me ought to divert your Grace's thoughts from the important affairs which constantly employ them But as no doubt the public affairs & his Majesty's service in this Province have some share in your Grace's cares & greater trouble may hereafter happen by the affairs of this Province unless your Grace



be truly inform'd of somethings which I suspect have been misrepresented I most humbly beg your Grace's pardon for this interruption

If it should be in the power of a Faction to wrest the administration out of the hands of those with whom the King intrusts it in order to serve ambitious views & for the same purpose to confound every measure taken for his Majesty's service Your Grace will think that it in some degree deserves your attention as in its consequence it may defeat the best concerted Schemes & gradually destroy the dependancy of this & the other colonies on the Crown

That such a Faction may be easily form'd in this place cannot be difficult to conceive when it shall be consider'd that not only the generality of the People but of their Representatives in Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly are of the lowest rank of mankind easily deluded & led away with popular pretences That the people in this & the neighbouring colonies are of levelling inclinations & greedily swallow every thing that tends to degrade their Superiors And that such a Faction has been form'd in this Province I am humbly of opinion will clearly appear to your Grace from the whole tenour of the Proceedings in Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly from the papers which they published & from the manner & times in which they were published but more particularly from the Intelligence his Excellency receiv'd from one privy to their designs of which I doubt upon proper enquiry full proof can be made. The chief hopes of this Faction were placed on the boldness & publickness with which falshoods were asserted in confidence that it could not be imagined that men durst make such open attacks on the public character of their Governor without foundation for their complaints & at this time when the ministry is engaged in a multiplicity of business of the greatest importance the Faction trusted they could not have time to make a strict enquiry & therefore would readily encline to any plausible proposal for quieting the present differences & which was concerted for that purpose The Faction likewise hoped that for the same rea-

sons the Gov<sup>rs</sup> friends might think it most advisable to have them quieted in such a method A strict enquiry I am perswaded will make this appear to be more than conjecture Vile aspersions on the Gov<sup>r</sup> were by authority of the Assembly published dispersed & propagated not only with disregard but with open opposition to the Authority with which his Majesty has cloath'd him These appeals to the People I must beg your Grace's excuse in observing to you, are dangerous in all Governments but in no case excusable in a dependant Gov<sup>t</sup> where there is a legal method for application & redress in case of a Gov<sup>rs</sup> misbehaviour. The taking this method of Calumniating while the other method by either private or publick application to his Majesty's ministers was as obvious sufficiently evinces the design of the Cabal & that some men stick at no means however dishonourable to carry their ends for certainly no man of common sense would take dishonourable means if he thought his ends could be obtain'd otherwise

It is certain my Lord that the gratifying the heads of the Faction in what they aim'd at, is a certain method to please them but tho several were united in opposition to the Governor yet they did not all unite in the same view & tho the same measures might serve their different purposes yet they cannot all be pleased with the event I must again beg your Grace's leave to observe that the Success in this attempt will incourage others to attempt the like & may discourage the friends of the Gov<sup>t</sup> in supporting it in the like occasion Expedients which tho' they give present relief lay a foundation for a continuation of evils certainly ought to be avoided if possible

From the knowledge I have of this Province after having been 25 years in his Majesty's council & have had as particular an intimacy with several Governours as any person in it I am perswaded that if a proper check had been given to these attempts the opposition would have been effectually stopt & with this advantage that all future attempts of the like nature would have been discouraged.

As to the Calumnies which have been published under the Authority of the Assembly of this Province against me there can be no doubt of their being such when it shall be consider'd they are general charges & insinuations of my secret designs & intentions to which no answer can be given but that of a flat denial & to which the most innocent is equally exposed as the most guilty I am under no uneasiness that they can in any shape hurt me with those that know me I have rather reason to be vain that the Malice of this Faction could find no other method of attacking my reputation but the same from which M<sup>r</sup> Clinton's Integrity & honour his Birth his Character of Gov<sup>r</sup> in chief of the Province & a life spent in his Majesty's service could not protect him I shall beg leave only to mention one thing in the attempt on my character because it is the only thing your Grace can enquire into without Trouble It is insinuated in a long printed libel against Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton that I had been in the Rebellion in Scotland in the year 1715 I went at that time from London to Scotland with the present Marquess of Lothian & brought about 70 Volunteers to him at Kelso a greater number than any one person at that time did Your Grace may be inform'd of the truth of this from the Marquess who knew me from my Childhood & I believe still remembers me tho' by my going to America soon after this happened I have not seen his Lord<sup>p</sup> since that time

I have been my Lord in the Service of the Crown ever since I came into this Province I have endeavour'd to do my Duty with zeal & Loyalty & I hope your Grace will excuse this trouble which I am forced to give you to free my self from imputations on my character indeavour'd to be fixed by dishonourable means I have preserv'd my self free from blame to old age in his Majesty's service I hope your Grace will be so far from thinking that I now deserve it that you will allow me to plead some merit on this occasion because it requird some resolution & virtue to withstand the attempts of a violent faction I had no enmity or difference with any one person in that faction



till I endeavour'd according to my Duty to support his Majesty's Governor I did not in any shape intermeddle till his Excellency required my assistance & after the differences had appear'd I shall therefor hope that however your Grace may think it prudent at this time to put an end to these publick dissensions Your Grace will not think me unworthy of having been employ'd in his Majesty's Service & of continueing

Yours Grace's  
Most obedient &c

To his Grace the Duke of New Castle

*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*  
[Copy]

COLDENHAM March 21<sup>st</sup> 1747-8

I have the honour of your Excell<sup>ys</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> instant and according to your advice I inclose a letter to the Duke of New Castle in which I have endeavour'd to put the state of the late publick disputes in as clear a light & in as few words as I can. I think it better to put it in form of a letter then of Memorial because the latter method may seem too formal & may put his Grace under some restraint in the manner of taking notice of it If your Excell<sup>y</sup> approve of it both as to substance & manner please to forward it as your Excell<sup>y</sup> shall think proper either by it self under a proper cover or under your Excell<sup>ys</sup> cover

If there be any thing in it w<sup>ch</sup> your Excell<sup>y</sup> thinks wrong please to inform me of it & I shall correct it according to your Excell<sup>ys</sup> directions for which purpose I think there will be time sufficient before the ship sails No doubt, I think, can now remain that there has been a design for some considerable time past & perhaps from your Excell<sup>ys</sup> first arival in your Gov<sup>t</sup> to wrest it out of your hands by the most dishonourable means that can well be imagined & that Adm<sup>l</sup> Knowles has formed a true

Judgement of this affair & upon good & sufficient intelligence.

But I am perswaded that after your Excell<sup>ys</sup> friends shall be truly apprised after what manner their confidence has been abused they must resent it with indignation & the event turn to your Excell<sup>ys</sup> honor & the disgrace of your deceitful enemies

Your Excell<sup>y</sup> understands right what I intended by referring you to the Powers in your Commis<sup>n</sup> & your Excell<sup>y</sup> is certainly in the right to think that they ought not to be made use of but upon very evident reasons & I shall likewise add that these powers ought to be more cautiously used in time of War than of peace because of the many sinister accidents which may happen more in the one case than in the other But at the same time it may be proper for your Excell<sup>y</sup> to advise with Lawyers whether one man can be Governor Chancellor & Chief Justice at the same time If it shall be found that these Offices are incompatible I think it highly concerns the Interest of the Province & of individuals that the Chief Justice's place be fill'd up before your Excell<sup>y</sup> resign the administration If I be not mistaken there is an instruction that the Gov<sup>r</sup> shall not execute any other office I suspect that the Chief Justices design was to give a Commiss<sup>n</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Horsmanden to execute the office of Chief Justice during the time of the administration shall be in the Chief Justice's hand & that office to revert to the present Chief Justice in case the administration of Gov<sup>t</sup> should go from him This Scheme it is probable has bouyed Horsmanden up in all his insolencies This seems to deserve your Excellency's serious consideration for on this the future peace of the Province may much depend & your own honour with respect to your past administration If the Chief Justice shall insist on M<sup>r</sup> Horsmanden's being restored I shall think that his views are not confin'd to his having the administration as Lieutenant Gov<sup>r</sup> but to go further & for that purpose to do your Excell<sup>y</sup> an injury with your friends by lessening their esteem of you It is chiefly with a view to this that my letter to the Duke of



New Castle is calculated for while his Majesty's ministers suspect that the Difficulties in the administration of Gov<sup>t</sup> in this Province have arisen from your Excell<sup>ys</sup> imprudence tho out of friendship they should extricate you from them yet the imputation remains & it must do your Excell<sup>y</sup> an injury with them for the future by lessening their esteem & confidence in your conduct in other things

But notwithstanding of what I have wrote I am of opinion that if the Chief Justices views extend no further than the Lt Governors place matters may be compromised so as to save your Excellency's honour & to give general satisfaction tho it be not possible to please every individual

I am desirous to know whether your Excell<sup>y</sup> has any Jealousy of Wraxel

I send my son on purpose with my letters to deliver them into your Excellency's own hands If your Excell<sup>y</sup> have any commands for me please to order him up as soon as you shall think proper His private affairs make any long stays inconvenient for him at this season of the year

Tho it be not in my power to make a suitable return to the honour your Excell<sup>y</sup> does me in Comp<sup>y</sup> yet I have frequently the pleasure to see your Excell<sup>ys</sup> health drank in this part of the province with a sense of the happiness they enjoy & they might more fully enjoy under your administration were it not for the unreasonable opposition of malicious & envious persons My wife & children join in our dutyfull respects to your Excell<sup>y</sup> & your Lady & our most humble service to the Capt<sup>n</sup> & Miss Clinton

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*From Governor George Clinton*

Dear Sir

I have been very ill ever since your son came down with y<sup>e</sup> Gout in both feet & a Violent disorder in my head,

I have just made Shift & Hobble this morning into my dressing room, but I still remain with a violent headake tho' have been Blisterd for it, y<sup>t</sup> I have not time to peruse yours & your Son is so very impatient y<sup>t</sup> I can only say as soon as I have, shall let you know my Sentem<sup>ts</sup> but M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton approves of y<sup>e</sup> letter to His Grace, I shall just run over a few Matters y<sup>t</sup> my head will give me leave.

First they have given Howe 150 £ for his Services for drawing bills &c 2<sup>d</sup> They have stoped one third of my allowance from me for five &c 3<sup>d</sup> they have taken no Notice of scalp money or for a Commanding officer, tho' I have appointed Coll<sup>l</sup> Johnson by their own agreement 4<sup>th</sup> they are a little doubtfull of me at present ab<sup>t</sup> my passing their Bills espec[ially] their two favourits & want some assurances from me before they proceed any further & hope I dont intend to quarrell with them, I have told y<sup>e</sup> C. J. I have no intention to quarrell with them tho' they seem inclined or they would never have made Such an impertinent Resolve as they did in relation to y<sup>e</sup> Stores y<sup>t</sup> was at Sarahtoga as they had no pretentions in y<sup>e</sup> world to them, as to promises I should give none but let them give me my Support in the manner it always has been & as full pay y<sup>e</sup> others just demands I have upon them & provide for in a ample manner for what I have demanded for y<sup>e</sup> good of y<sup>e</sup> Province & when they do y<sup>t</sup> & when they have done y<sup>t</sup> I shall pass any Bills that y<sup>e</sup> Council will advise me to pass which is M<sup>r</sup> Allexanders advice to me even as to their two bills to have their advice whether I shall pass them or not for he says he has known some times y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Council has passed bills, but when y<sup>e</sup> Govern<sup>r</sup> has asked their advice in Council if he shoud they have not cared to give it for a Govern<sup>r</sup> tho' they had

M<sup>r</sup> Shirley has receivd a letter from His Grace to joyn with me & to assist in doing every thing in our power to Secure y<sup>e</sup> Indians in every Shape at y<sup>e</sup> Expence of y<sup>e</sup> Crown & I have received presents to y<sup>e</sup> value of ab<sup>t</sup> 1200 Strl<sup>s</sup> to give away amongst them as I shall think proper, & M<sup>r</sup> Shirly has hinted to me as if he should be glad to

have a meeting Early in y<sup>e</sup> Spring with me at Albany or where Else I shall think proper to consult measures, but y<sup>t</sup> must depend on my health, The Council Seems to be pushing it on greatly & wants me to name y<sup>e</sup> time directly for the Far Nations & all others to be at Albany or they could be down time enough to joyn in y<sup>e</sup> Expedition y<sup>t</sup> I cant get these people to come into any certainty about notwithstanding M<sup>r</sup> Shirly & I ingage (which I do by Message this day) to maintain any Conquest we shall make by this Expedition at y<sup>e</sup> intire Expence of y<sup>e</sup> Crown & I argue with them the vast expence it will be to y<sup>e</sup> Crown to send for these far nations who must be in pay & Victualls & should y<sup>e</sup> Expedition not Succeed what I could I say to them & another baulk of this kind would indanger their turning to y<sup>e</sup> French, but as the Expence is not theirs they dont care, but I shall consult with M<sup>r</sup> Shirly about these affaires

The notion I have of y<sup>e</sup> Ships intended to be taken when I go in this for y<sup>e</sup> C. J. to keep his Commiss<sup>n</sup> as Such but to give up his Salary to be divided, y<sup>t</sup> is to make Phi—S<sup>r</sup> Judge with 200 £ a year Howe 2<sup>d</sup> with y<sup>e</sup> same Sallary & to appoint a 3<sup>d</sup> at 100 which will be a Saiving of £50 a year to y<sup>e</sup> Province & then if any thing happens He can return to His C. Justice<sup>p</sup> but can say no more now and indeed wile my head give me leave & I wish you may be able to read it, tho' determined to writte M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton joyns in our Sincere friendship to you & family being very much

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your friend & Servant

G CLINTON

We expect a Squadron every day at Louisbourg from England & hope to receive some orders.

29 March 1748



*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK March 29<sup>th</sup> 1748

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> I this day received & as your Son tells me he returns to morrow morning I set down at Eight at night to answer yours haveing been all day Engaged till just now

Your not haveing your Letters from Collinson by Waddell inclosed in my private Letter you're Sensible is owing to my being in jersey & dayly Expected home after Waddell arrived I hope before this you have rec<sup>d</sup> that with another that came to my hand after I returned home, with mine that I wrote about three weeks agoe

As to the Alteration in politicks here I am much a Stranger to it & the Cause of it & as it was a topik of discourse wore out before I returned, I did not revive it by being inquisitive about it—I am Sure I would rather chuse your present State with a very moderate Subsistence than the fatigues you underwent for a year before with a thousand a year Laid in the Scale with them, Your former amusements in Philosophy I think are a much more agreeable Employment of your Spare hours, & will produce more Lasting Satisfaction to your own mind—if you can ascertain the obliquity of the Ecliptick, and refractions at all altitudes so as never afterwards to be Disputed they will be Lasting obligations on the Learned world, & transmitt your name to posterity with more honour than the Conquest of Kingdoms.

As to the Paradox you put concerning refractions; of the possibility of a Considerable refraction at one or two Degrees altitude & yet none at the horison; as refractions and all other (almost) well warranted theoris were founded on Experiments & observations first made, & the cause afterwards Guessed at which made the theoris—according to that theory as it now stands it Seems impossible; But if Such a thing really Exists as in your paradox, to me it would seem to be Easily observed; for, the

apparent velocity between the horizon (where no refraction is) to the one or two degrees altitude (where a Considerable refraction is) would be considerably greater than the middle motion, and a well regulated clock would Easily Discover how much greater & if Such greater velocity were there observed a cause would be guessed at for Establishing a theory to Solve it—So many things have been Discovered within the past Century not Dreamt of before & contrary to the theoris before in vogue that we ought to be Cautious of concludeing any thing impossible tho our Theoris Say so

in my former Letters to you I mentioned the wonderful cures lately performed by the Large use of Musk as published by the Royal Society for the Benefite of Mankind—Since that in a further transaction, I found a Case Sent by a Phisitian which they publish on the same head I shall repeat the Substance as well as my memory will help me—A Gentleman was taken with a Rheumatick fever attended with Excessive pains in Every part, & Coughed up blood—he was first attended for 10 days by an apothecary only & growing worse a Phisitian was Sent for but the patient being very humorous, would have no more of that Phisitian & Sent for him who makes the report the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Distemper be ordered him to be Let blood Several times & found his blood one third Size, & ordered a proper Regimen, but the patient refused to pursue it & after the 18<sup>th</sup> day Declined visiting him—on the 23<sup>d</sup> day the Phisitian was intreated to visit again—he found he had a Long intermission in his pulse at Every third or fourth stroack, and a most fatiguing hiccup which Struck him violently ten times a minute was very weak & Delirious—he ordered 15 grains of Musk in a proper vehicle & that to be repeated every 6 hours Encreasing a grain Each time—the first draught restored the pulse in 4 hours—but it took six draughts to restore him from the hiccup & to his Senses—in the Six Draughts—there was one hundred & five grains of musk—ordered then only a proper diet & in a fortnight the patient went abroad & was well—in this case tho the



musk he thinks performed the cure yet he cant say that it made him Sleep or perspire more than ordinary

I believe the Oswego will not Sail for a fourtnight yet—I shall write to Collinson as you desire—my humble Service to M<sup>rs</sup> Colden & all your family—I remain

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>

JA. ALEXANDER

herewith I send you one of your Ind<sup>n</sup> history Sent by Collinson, the other was borrowed by Major Rutherford, not returned.

[Indorsed]

To  
The hon<sup>ble</sup>  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
att  
Coldenham  
w<sup>t</sup> a book.

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*From Governor George Clinton*

NEW YORK 1<sup>st</sup> April 1748.

Sir

The hurry I am constantly kept in, & a late Indisposition has prevented my perusing your letters till this morning, & as I approve of your letter to his Grace, I shall forward it under my own cover. I allow y<sup>t</sup> Exercising y<sup>e</sup> two offices of L<sup>t</sup> Gover<sup>r</sup> & Chief Justice are incompatible, but Suppose he keeps both on y<sup>e</sup> footing I mention to you in my other letter, he may retain y<sup>e</sup> office of C. J. in petto, till he has occasion to take it up again, I am of opinion he never will part with certainty for hope, & I conclude what I mentioned to be his Scheme, & not to give y<sup>e</sup> Commiss<sup>n</sup> to Horsmanden, I have assur'd him y<sup>t</sup> no condition w<sup>h</sup> ever shall induce me to restore Horsmanden, even if his restoration comes from home; But I have lately discovered the Spring of all my disappointments in England by M<sup>r</sup> Charles (upon whome I depended) acting in confidence with S<sup>r</sup> Pet<sup>r</sup> Warren, & nothing Surprized me more yesterday then the Speaker

asking me if I would consent to y<sup>e</sup> giving an allowance of 200£ to an Agent in England for y<sup>e</sup> Service of y<sup>e</sup> Province & named M<sup>r</sup> Charles to me as recommend<sup>d</sup> by S<sup>r</sup> Peter which plainly demonstrats y<sup>t</sup> he has plaid Cat in pan with me, by which means all our Expectations have been frustrated of which M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood was Jealous when at home

The Assembly have again brought in & passed y<sup>e</sup> two Bills you objected to with some alterations which are now passed y<sup>e</sup> Council, & I sent to M<sup>r</sup> Allexander for his opinion how to behave on this occasion, & he advised my taking y<sup>e</sup> opinion of y<sup>e</sup> Council upon them as he has known Instances of y<sup>e</sup> Councils passing Bills in a publick Capacity & rejecting y<sup>e</sup> Same Bills in a privitt way when their advice has been asked by y<sup>e</sup> Gover<sup>r</sup> which Method I intend to persue.

The affair ag<sup>st</sup> Crown point has been recommended by His Majesty to M<sup>r</sup> Shirly & I & we have renewed y<sup>e</sup> matter with y<sup>e</sup> Assembly here, & as I had y<sup>e</sup> Assurances from them y<sup>t</sup> if we would undertake y<sup>e</sup> maintaining any Fort reduced to His Maj<sup>ty</sup>s Obedience at y<sup>e</sup> Expence of y<sup>e</sup> Crown they woud chearfully Join w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> other two Govern<sup>ts</sup> for carrying on y<sup>e</sup> Enterprize, but to my astonishment they sent me y<sup>e</sup> inclosd Answer which is nothing unless all y<sup>e</sup> Governm<sup>ts</sup> are concerned, They have also taken an allowance of £ 150 to Horsmanden in y<sup>e</sup> application Bill so y<sup>t</sup> I must go without Support myself or give him some which M<sup>r</sup> Alex[ander] advises me to wink at as unworthy my Notice.

As y<sup>e</sup> Ship will not Sail this Fortnight if you can give me y<sup>e</sup> Sentiments on the inclosed papers y<sup>t</sup> I may give them home to y<sup>e</sup> D. of N. I desire will send a trusty Man down with it & y<sup>e</sup> inclosed as I intend to Send home against them—As strong as I can & I will pay y<sup>e</sup> Charges what you agree for but let it be a trusty hand you send them by.

In case of any accident to me I propose appointing you His Maj<sup>ty</sup>s Surveyor Gen<sup>l</sup> for life or in Reversion to your Son being informd I have it in my power to do it,

That y<sup>e</sup> C. J. may not be able to remove you from y<sup>t</sup> Employ<sup>m</sup><sup>t</sup> upon any occasion, Therefore I desire y<sup>r</sup> opinion on this matter being desirous to Secure you all I can ag<sup>st</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Mallice of your Enemys & hope you will believe me to be

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your faithfull friend  
& Servant

G CINTON

I have settled w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup> son I  
believe to his Satisfaction  
& refer you to him for further  
News.

You see Willet has acted in  
Weschester as I always told you  
he woud but will say no more of it at  
present.

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*Remarks on the Subject Matter of the papers sent me by  
his Excellency April 5<sup>th</sup> 1748*

[In Colden's handwriting]

The preserving the Friendship of the Six united Indian Nations is at all times of the greatest consequence to the Safety & Prosperity of the British Colonies in North America but of the greatest importance in time of War by reason of their Warlike Genius their general influence on the other Indian Nations & the Vast extent of the Frontiers of these Brittish Colonies towards the Indian Countries

The only possible Methods of preserving the Friendship of the six united Nations are either

To ingage them in an absolute Newtrality or to take sides with the Colonies in the War against the French

The first method of a Newtrality can be of litle or no benefite to us unless the Indian Nations engaged with the French be at the same time brought into the same

Newtrality for otherwise the Brittish colonies will be exposed to the Incursion of the French Indians as much as now & the Northern Colonies deprived of the Assistance of the Six Nations in their defence The Danger from such incursions would be greater because the French in Canada being in such case under no apprehensions from the Six United Nations could send all their Indians out in making incursions whereas while they are under continual apprehensions from the six Nations they must keep a considerable number & perhaps the greatest part of their Indians at home for security of their own frontiers It is likewise more than probable that in case of such Newtrality of the Six Nations a much greater number of Indians would join the French against us than now do because at present they are affray'd of the resentment of the Six Nations & of their Incursions into their own Countries while from their homes. Neither (considering the natural inclinations of the Indians to War & plunder) could it be possible to restrain great numbers of the Six Nations from joining with the French if they be not employ'd by us in War & plundering & consequently the Six Nations (notwithstanding of the Friendship of their Sachems being sincere towards the English) would insensibly & unavoidably be brought into the War against the Brittish Colonies

The French have weighed these things well for despairing of gaining the Six Nations to declare formally for them, they have with the greatest earnestness endeavour'd to establish this Newtrality

But put the case that the Newtrality were general among all the Indians. This certainly would be a happy case on many accounts but how shall it be brought about No method seems practicable to me but by the interposition of the Six Nations there threatning to take sides unless a General Newtrality for all Indians be agreed on

Now let us consider what probable reasons we can have to hope for such an event It must be either brought about with the consent of the French or notwithstanding of all the opposition they can make to it



As to the French consenting to it there seems no reason to hope for it in such case For while the Brittish Colonies are under no apprehensions from incursions from the Indians they may freely bend their whole force against Canada & as the Brittish Colonies are so vastly superior to Canada both in men & money the consent of the French to such a Newtrality would in effect be the giving up of their Country On the contrary then there is all the reason to think that the French will obstruct such a General Newtrality by all methods in their power

The next is then to consider what hopes we may have of gaining such a Newtrality notwithstanding of all the opposition which the French can make to it. As I observ'd before there is no means of bringing this about but by the Interposition of the six nations alone & the success must entirely depend on their heartiness & dexterity in manageing this for us for it cannot be expected that the French will Suffer any of the English to converse with their Indians The French Indians (except the deserters from the six Nations who live near Montreal) know little of the English & have all possible bad notions instilled into them of their Weakness & pusillanimity These deserters from the six Nations & all the Indians on whom the French chiefly depend in making their incursions on the English are converts to the Popish religion & have likewise all the prejudices instill'd into them against the English which can arise from an ignorant religious Zeal & how great these are the histories of all Nations sufficiently evince It seems then to me more than probable or rather it seems certain that the six nations supposing them hearty can never be able to establish such a general Newtrality as is proposed But it is very probable the French may amuse them with the hopes of it for as long time as possible thereby to gain in effect the advantages they propose to themselves by the separate Newtrality of the six Nations & it is evident that the French since the commencement of the present war have amused them with such hopes

But it may be said that tho' a general Newtrality for



the Indians can not be obtain'd as to all the Colonies yet it may be obtain'd as to the Province of New York by it self since it is certain that such a Newtrality was obtain'd in time of Queen Anne's War & this Province thereby must gain great advantages as

1 It will thereby be freed from the heavy expence of maintaining Forces for the Defence of the Frontiers

2 The farmers in the Northern Colonies will be able to pursue their labour & the produce & manufactures of the Country thereby be greatly enlarged

3 By the War being continued with the neighbouring colonies who in most things have the same produce with us the value of our produce must be greatly increased for in the time of Queen Anne's war while this Newtrality between New York & Canada subsisted the Boundary of the Newtrality to the Eastward was Westerhook River which runs all along near the Bounds between this Province & New England The farmers in New York Government were quiet & peaceable at their plow & other labour while the Country on the east side of the River was destroyed in their sight by fire and sword

4 The Merchants of New York will be no less gainers than the farmers because of the great difficulties the French of Canada are under in being supplied with European goods either for their own use or for the Indian market while the English are superior at sea & therefor the Merchants of New York will sell their goods to great advantage to the French by the interposition of the Indians who under the protection of the Newtrality must have free access to Albany

Lastly the Toun of Albany which suffers most by the incursions of the Indians will in this case be the greatest gainers because as they are but between twenty & thirty miles from New England The French Indians parties will come to Albany to fit themselves out with Arms Ammunition & Provisions & return again to Albany to sell their plunder when Albany is so near to them & otherwise they must carry their plunder 2 or 300 miles to Canada And they will get more for their plunder at Al-

bany than at Canada because as they sell all for European goods (not for money) the cheapness of European goods at Albany will more than compensate the greater price for which perhaps they might sell their plunder at Canada. What happen'd at Albany in the time of Queen Anne's War puts this under a much greater certainty than meer conjecture

I have been the more particular in enumerating the reasons some people & especially some of the traders have for desiring a Newtrality as to New York because it was from these Arguments chiefly that so many in this province were influenced in prejudice to your Excellency's administration while your measures were calculated for the General benefite of the Nation & under these popular arguments in this province the faction in opposition more easily propagated the greatest fashoods & basest calumnies & the person whose governing passion is to have power & who cannot bear an equal much less a superior artfully made use of these popular arguments to serve his own purposes without regard to the nature of the means however dishonourable in themselves or ingrateful in him towards your Excellency while serv'd his principal passion of ambition

These Arguments deserve the more serious consideration because as the administration is to be in the hands of those men who pursue these maxims they are likely to be the rule of their future conduct nor can they easily change their measures since upon such a change they must become inconsistent with themselves loose their popularity & the influence they have gain'd

But what gives these Arguments the greater force with those persons who seek the private benefite of themselves & of the people of this province without regard to the general Interest of the Nation is that litle doubt is to be made of the French coming into such a Newtrality For the same reasons which brought them into it in the time of Queen Anne's War & the next administration in New York probably will for the same reasons the Gov<sup>r</sup> of New York at that time did in order to advance

his private interest by complying with the Inclinations of the people of his Government tho' in prejudice to the Interest of the Nation

The reasons the French have to wish for such a Neutrality while they have no hopes of engaging the six Nations against us are

1 The dividing their ennemies

2 In being supplied with Arms Ammunition & European goods for their own use & the Indians Market from Albany while their trade is obstructed or perhaps entirely stopt by sea

3 Their gaining constant & speedy intelligence from Albany

4 In hopes thereby to have it in their power to fall upon the people of New England who have at all times been their most inveterate ennemies & have don them the most injury in time of War & in hopes of making the people of New E for the future more cautious of giving them offence

In answer to all these Arguments it may serve to put only a parallel case suppose the City of Bristol with the Country adjacent to it should obtain the privilege to be exempted from the expence & other inconveniences of the present War with the privilege of trading freely to France & of receiving their ships It is no Question it would be of great advantage to the Riches of Bristol But how prejudicial must it be to the rest of the Kingdom & how could they bear it

It remains then only to consider whether the six Nations may probably be engaged heartily in the War against the French. There is no doubt but the French emissaries among them have inculcated all the arguments for their remaining Newter which are obvious enough For example that it is for their Interest that neither the English nor French be Masters since thereby they must become absolutely dependent on the conqueror whereas they will be carressed & courted by both sides while the power of the French & English remains upon a ballance Notwithstanding that the Indians seem sensible



of the force of this argument & frequently make use of it yet from what has allready happen'd since the Expedition agt Canada was set on foot It is evident the six nations may be brought in heartily into the War. Since if the Expedition had gon on so many were ready to have join'd in it This proceeds from the natural Genius of the nation bent upon War so that however the prudence of their Sachems or old men may restrain them for a while yet the young men are easily enticed into such enterprises & once the young men are drawn off the old men have no authority to withstand them 2 The remaining distaste they have to the French since the cruel & bloody wars they had with them about the time of the Revolution in England & Lastly the Influence which presents have upon them in which the French are not capable to vye with the English

But notwithstanding of this the Indians will be wavering & easily prevail'd on to alter their Sentiments if they be not kept constantly employ'd & vigorously assisted by the English & encouraged with success otherwise they will grow Jealous that the English design to have them destroy'd in order to possess their lands which the French from time to time have indeavour'd to infuse into their minds. And for these reasons I agree with Mr Shirley that it is better to join with the Indians in some considerable interprize tho' it should not succeed than to suffer them to remain inactive

The advantages to be gain'd by the six Nations engaging heartily in the War are many & obvious Their Influence on the neighbouring Indian Nations will draw many to join who are now wavering & in doubt & will deterr others who incline to favour the French. Their Incursions on the Frontiers of Canada will harass the inhabitants & prevent their making incursions on the English & may so far prejudice their Husbandry as to bring them into great distress for want of Provisions in the Winter Canada being subject to famine from the barrenness of the soil together with the lenth & severity of their winters No enterprise by Land agt Canada can be

safely undertaken without the assistance of numerous Indians to guard against the Ambuscades & sudden & unexpected attacks of the Ennemy This is more to be attended to in any enterprises by the Militia of this Country than perhaps may be easily imagined necessary without considering that the English Militia in America is under no kind of Discipline nor can they easily be brought under any proper obedience of subjection to their officers & it will be difficult to find a sufficient number of officers who understand any thing of military discipline so that a body of the English Militia may probably be easily surprised & defeated by a much smaller number of the French & Indians of which we have had too many instances The French Militia are kept constantly under strict discipline & most of them used to marching in the woods & Skirmishing with the Indians.

The Provinces of Pennsylvania New Jersey New York & the New England Colonies contain at least a hundred thousand men able to bear arms whereas the French in Canada by the best informations we can obtain do not amount to twelve thousand By a proper application the English are capable of bringing at least three times the number of Indians into the Field that the French by any means can & as to Riches Canada bears no proportion to these Colonies Yet the Northern Colonies have been continually harass'd by the French in Canada & have often suffer'd greatly by them at the same time I think every expedition attempted against Canada has miscarried.

The reason of this besides the Want of proper discipline before observ'd is from the Colonies not being united but as so many distinct & independent States under different policies all of them pursuing their private interests & often in opposition to each other.

If a 1000 Indians were sent in small parties on the Frontiers of Canada at considerable distances from each other it would require the whole force of Canada to defend their Frontiers otherwise than by carrying all the Inhabitants into their Fortifications whereby they must



neglect their husbandry & famine ensue & while the Indians were making inroads any body of men may without much danger of being surprised march to Crown point & afterwards any other of their fortresses 500 Indians with the Army in my opinion would be sufficient in this case to prevent surprises I make no doubt such a number of Indians requisite for these purposes may without great difficulty be obtain'd

Now I have laid before your Excellency every thing which occurs to me on the subject matter of the papers on which you have been pleased to demand my opinion And as to the present Scheme on foot I shall only add that it seems to me that the person who at present has the greatest influence continues to pursue the same popular scheme by which he has gain'd his popular influence that is by endeavouring at a Newtrality between this Province & Canada Your Excellency knows that he has on some occasions openly declared his sentiments on this head The Answer the Assembly gave the 31st of last month to your Excell<sup>s</sup> Message wherein they say they are ready to join with the other Colonies on the continent in any well concerted scheme is to the same purpose with the answers they formerly gave in such like Messages when from their whole conduct they shew'd that they wanted some pretence to evade every thing of that kind They dare not openly declare for this partial Newtrality nor refuse to join with the other Colonies when their assistance is required against the Common ennemy but they find means to evade it under several pretences in order to accomplish the Newtrality which they aim at And as the assembly has in effect assumed the nomination of Commiss<sup>rs</sup> to treat with the other Governments it must be allwise be in their power to defeat any measures which may be prejudicial to their views of establishing a Newtrality for this Province But it seems requisite to observe that by the words well *concerted Scheme* they make themselves the sole judges & in effect is taking the administration & executive parts of Gov<sup>t</sup> upon themselves which from many instances they plainly

aim at. This must be attended with many inconveniences but more especially in time of War since by this means no Enterprise can remain secret On this occasion my son told me that the plan of operation for next summer was part of the Conversation at New York where he was present & particularly of a feint that was to be made in order to cover the real Design But certainly when ever a feint is discover'd the whole intention of it is defeated & what ever is the common conversation at New York cannot be long a secret in Canada

In the last place I shall only observe to your Excell<sup>y</sup> that the informing his Majesty's ministers of the designs of a popular party in this province in the Clamours they have lately rais'd against your Excell<sup>y</sup> may not only be of use in your own justification but for his Majesty's Service both at present & for the future in preventing the Ministers giving too suddenly ear to such popular Clamours because it may discourage his Majestys faithfull servants in doing their Duty in opposition to dishonourable & pernicious designs when favoured by a popular cry When M<sup>r</sup> Burnet put a stop in his time to the Trade with Canada the Merchants made the like clamours & did not scruple to advance the grossest falsehoods in a petition to his Majesty & yet the stopping of that Trade & diverting it to trading directly with the Indians is now own'd on all hands to be of the greatest advantage to this Province & probably if that had not been don by this time the Indians had been entirely brought over to the French Interest & to a dependance on them.

On reviewing what I have wrote I think no proofs are wanting the reason of things seems to me to carry proof sufficient along with it & there can no doubt in my opinion remain with those who are acquainted with the past transactions in this province The only thing that may seem doubtfull is that there really is such a person in this province of such insatiable Ambition & thirst after power as is supposed. Every man the least acquainted with the world knows there have been such

in all times & in all countries This person herein meant was introduced while very young into public business in the time M<sup>r</sup> Montgomery had the Govern<sup>t</sup> who dy'd soon afterwards Coll Cosby's administration who succeeded became exceedingly distracted & embroil'd by this persons ambition for the Chief Justice's office & the effects of them remain'd all the time of Mr Clerks administration & since your Excellency's arival it is now evident that his councils were directed to give such influence to a Faction in the assembly entirely directed by him as to curb & embroil your administration at pleasure & to have it in his power to do the same in any other administration Your Excell<sup>y</sup> may judge how far his ambition is like to extend whether he can be satisfied with a smaller power or a less degree of honour while he can have any hopes of obtaining a greater His love of money On many instances is as remarkable as his ambition & it is therefor most likely he will never be content with a half while he can hope to have the whole.

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*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*  
[Copy]

COLDENHAM April 9<sup>th</sup> 1748

S<sup>r</sup>

I am sorry to learn both from my son & by the honour I have of your Excellency's letters of the 29<sup>th</sup> of last month & first of this that you have been so much indisposed Its happening at this time while your Excellency's thoughts must be so much imploy'd exceedingly increases the misfortune God grant that you be fully restored to your health

What in my opinion chiefly concerns your Excell<sup>y</sup> at present is to remove every thing which has been laid to your Charge in order to lessen the Esteem the Duke of New Castle had of you because that may affect your Excell<sup>y</sup> in the future part of your life. In my opinion it



is impossible to save your Excellency's honour if M<sup>r</sup> H-n be thought worthy to be imploy'd in places of the greatest trust after the publication of such libellous papers as have been printed & of which no one doubt of his being the Author Every man that reads them must conclude that either your Excellency or the author of these papers is not worthy to be intrusted in any publick service I am inform'd that upon an opposition which the members of Ulster made to M<sup>r</sup> Clarkson's motion for 200 pounds to M<sup>r</sup> Horsmanden he declared that the Services which he proposed to have rewarded were the papers which M<sup>r</sup> Horsmanden drew for the assembly The C J by his behaviour in this principally must give the most evident proof that he is your Excell<sup>y</sup>'s friend or that he is otherwise

I thank your Excell<sup>y</sup> for your kindness to my son & for what you are pleased to offer me for my own security against my ennemies I intend to consult M<sup>r</sup> Alexander by this conveyance in what manner what your Excellency proposes may most effectually be don after which I shall inform your Excell<sup>y</sup> if his sentiments what I have most reason to suspect is the opposition which C J & M<sup>r</sup> Murray may make to it in Council & if it have not the consent of Council the C J may afterwards take advantage of that defect since he may do it on that point without affecting his own commiss<sup>n</sup> But your Excell<sup>y</sup> knows that this office has been of no benefite to me since your Excell<sup>ys</sup> arival in your Govern<sup>t</sup> I have not got ten pounds by it in that time nor can it be of any value while the War lasts And therefore I hope your Excell<sup>y</sup> will allow me to renew a request I formerly made in favour of my son John that your Excell<sup>y</sup> would please to grant him the office of Store keeper in the Fort which M<sup>r</sup> Cuninghame had.

My son is about twenty years of age & sufficiently capable of that business I propose to send him to New York in order to fit him for some kind of business as future occurrences & his Genius may direct & this office may in a good measure support him till he can fall into



some proper business My having kept Mr Cuninghams daughter some years at my expence is some farther encouragement to make me hope that your Excelly will think my request reasonable.

I have made remarks on the papers your Excell<sup>y</sup> was pleas'd to send me for that purpose & they are made with this view to shew the Ministry for what purposes the vile aspersions have been thrown on your Excellys administration This I think necessary should be put in the clearest light possible otherwise your Excellency may most unjustly suffer in the opinion of your best friends I have endeavour'd to do it in the best manner I can think of in the time that is allow'd me If your Excellency approve of my thoughts you may either send it to the Duke of New Castle in my name as I send it to your Excell<sup>y</sup> or you may alter it & put it in your own name in such method as you think most prudent but that something of this kind be don seems absolutely necessary for your Excell<sup>y</sup> Vindication

As to my own part I am much more easy under the present disapointments than perhaps your Excell<sup>y</sup> or any other imagines since I still retain your Excellys favour for I am fully perswaded that if I have succeeded to my greatest hopes it would probably have been attended with exceeding great trouble & Vexation at this time under all the opposition that malice could invent & by the most dishonourable means as your Excell<sup>y</sup> has too fully experienced & therefore any dissapointments of this kind are far from influencing me otherwise than as it moves my resentment at the most dishonourable returns Your Excell<sup>y</sup> has met with to your former favours to the most ungratefull receiver of favours & after your Excell<sup>y</sup> return home or the Duke of N-C be truely inform'd things by your Excell<sup>y</sup> Friendship may take a more advantageous turn in my favour than it is possible they can at present

I would have sent one on purpose with these letters but as Mr Charles Clinton was to go within a day or two at most after the time that I could get my answer ready

tho' he could not go sooner I chose to send them by him being a person I can safely trust who on all occasions has shown the greatest regard for your Excellency & your family as well as for me & it is difficult to find any other unless I had sent one of my own Children & I apprehended that the sending any of my children at this time might give a suspicion prejudicial to your Excellency present business with the assembly

P S I inclose the Remarks together with the papers your Excell<sup>y</sup> sent by my son If your Excell<sup>y</sup> have any commands for me M<sup>r</sup> Clinton will carry them safely

I must beg your Excell<sup>ys</sup> leave to put you in mind that you avoid as much as possible to give any handle to designing or artfull men thereby to throw blame on your Excell<sup>y</sup> in case either the negociations with the Indians or the Enterprize ag<sup>t</sup> Crown point should not succeed or be obstructed by delays because as both will be attended with many difficulties & may be obstructed or want success by various incidents every one will be desirous to free themselves from blame & some may be glad to throw it on your Excell<sup>y</sup>

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK Aprile 17th 1748

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

I rec<sup>d</sup> yours of Aprile 9<sup>th</sup> yesterday from M<sup>r</sup> Clinton, If I remember right your Commission for Surveyor General is now by virtue of a Mandamus from the Crown, and if so, then I believe that is as Litle Lyable to an attack as if you had a Commission dureing good behaviour without a Mandamus, or rather Less Especially if granted without advice of Council—But I should think Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton might if he pleased procure the advice of Council, for I cannot think the C J would oppose it if he Desired his interest for it.

The Kings Mandamus I think would remove all ob-

jections, and unless his Excellency Engaged to get that or advice of Council I cannot See much Service that it could be of to you—I think if the Mandamus were for your Son dureing good behaviour after your death, or Surrender of your office or your otherwise Ceasing to be Surveyor General, it might answer all purposes, first it Seems a less favour & Easier obtained, 2<sup>dly</sup> it takes away the motives to remove you, because if they could, that act of theirs invests your Son with the office, 3<sup>dly</sup> your son upon your application for it in this shape should by writting Engage that if by any way he came to the office in your Life otherwise than by your Surrender to him, that he should pay you the whole profits of the office dureing your Life

I really believe that Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton is a very friendly man, & would do you any Service that Lay in his power, for he Sent M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood to me to tell me so, & that if I could think of any thing to Serve you, he would readily do it, & mentioned Something of what you now write

Bryant went up the Straits & from thence was to proceed to London, I don't remember to have heard that he was got to London till I received yours so know not when he is Expected

On Wednesday last I heard that there was a Comet appeared to the Northward of the East which rose at 12 at night—I got up the night following at two in the morning to See it but it happen'd to be Cloudy, the night after that I got up again when there was some flying Clouds, but a good many Stars from time to time appeared but I could Discover no Comet, but jupiter appeared bright & Large, & I imagined they had mistaken jupiter for a Comet, Especially as he gets up about the time they Said the Comet did, my Son told the persons my opinion & he brought me word today that Sundrys nameing them had Seen it & jupiter at the same time & that the tail of the Comet appeared above a yard in Length, I think of riseing this night before day to take another view, & if I can, observe its place, & if I can

Some nights hence to see how it moves, a white thread & a Candle behind me is all the instrument I have to do it with

Aprile 23<sup>d</sup> I have not heard of any opportunity Since writting the above Sooner than M<sup>r</sup> Clinton who tells me he goes to morrow—I think of nothing to add but that one of Cheesocks gained our cause with the Kahayat people—& inclosed I send you Coppy of two observations that I made of the Comet with a thread by which youll See it travells fast to the Northward & from the Sun—I am not as yet Certain of the Starrs Laid down farther than Cassiopia, I believe a, & b, are in Pegasus, c, d, e, in Andromedas Girdle the London ship is to Sail next week & I have Scarcely begun to write by her yet, when she is gone I will ascertain those Stars, & make Some further observations of the Comet if it Continues visible I suppose by its Speed Northward it will now be Seen all night & not set att all—my best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Colden & all your family—I remain

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient &  
most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER.

P. S. Apr 25<sup>th</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Clinton not having come as yet for this—I have opened it to add the names of the Stars which I think I am pretty certain of from my Observations from 1 to 3 this morning—I inclose also copy of my observation of the Comet this morning, & by its new place it will be visible all night if horizon is clear.

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

att

Coldingham.



*Colden's Conference with the Five Nations at Onondaga,  
April 24-26, 1748 to retain their friendship.*

April 24<sup>th</sup> 1748

At my first entering Onondage I was received by all the Sachims & Warriors who stood in Order with rested Arms, and fixed a Volley, after which my Party returned the Compliment: then I was Conducted by some of the principal Sachems to my Quarters which was a large Indian House Cleaned out, with new Matts laid on the Cabbins to lie in; they had another large house clean for to lodge the Indians whom I had with me, and two Houses more for my Party, all in very pretty neat Order. Every Castle I passed through did the Same, Hoisted English Colours such as they had every where, and beat their Drums, really beyond Expectation

In about an Hour after I arrived they called all the Sachems of Every Nation together, and then Sent for me to the Meeting which was a Verry full one.

Ganughshadeagah an Onondaga Sachem Spoke  
BROTHER

We the five Nations now assembled here, All bid you heartily welcome to our Fire or Meeting Place, and are thankfull the Lord who is above has Spared your life, to come among us at this bloody time. Gave three Hands of Wampum—  
BROTHER

You sent a Belt of Wampum through all the Nations Some time ago, desiring us all to Stay home, and not one offer to stir or go to Canada upon any Account whatsoever, until we heard farther from you, or Should see you. Now Brother We the five Nations here together must tell you, we think it very hard, being kept from hunting, now almost two years (Except a Trifle about Home) and that all for Nothing, as we can see no Sign of your doing any thing with your Army, as we expected: What shall we do now to live, being in a miserable poor Condition, And if We have a Trifle to lay out, Goods are

so dear at Oswego, that We can have nothing without paying Three Times as much as We used to do: So that we are to be pittied. Notwithstanding all these Difficulties We have at your Desire Stayed Home. Gave a Belt of Wampum

BROTHER

You some time after sent another Message Desiring us all to meet you here at Onondaga, and that you would be soon with us: We have accordingly agreed to your Desire, and are here now assembled this long time, expecting of you in a hungry Condition; having nothing here to Eat, and are far from home. Delivers more Wampum

BROTHER

being quite out of Patience and hungred, waiting, your Coming, We at length resolved to break up and go home, when we received another Message from you, that you were then at Ganughsharagey Castle Within a days Journey of this Place and desired we might by no means break up, 'ere you come; But desired we Should buy what Hogs Corn &c<sup>a</sup> we could, which we have done, and are all here ready to hear your News, and return you thanks for considering and Supplying our Wants, So we finish for this Day, Returns another Belt of Wampum

*My Answer to the foregoing*

BRETHREN

of the five Nations I return you all my most hearty Thanks for your kind welcome and assure you I am very glad to see you all well here at the old Meeting Place of our Forefathers, whose Steps I have now traced here, in order to keep the Road clean and open, according to the old Agreement made when We first joined in Brotherhood, which I hope you all remember.

BRETHREN

I must now tell you I am come here by your Brother the Governors Orders, to speak to you and tell you his News, But as I am a little fatigued after my Journey,

Cannot speak to you this Day: Wherefore desire to meet you all here to Morrow Morning: When I shall tell you my Message, as also your Brothers News: So hope you may be easy in your minds, and Content yourselves so long, and I will this Night provide a Feast for your Sachems, and another for the Warriors & Dancers, who I hope will be merry, which is my greatest pleasure to make and see them so. Finished for this Day:

Wampum given by me

April 25th 1748 My Speech

### BRETHREN

of the five Nations I have made what dispatch I could to meet you here, but the danger of travelling these Roads now is so great, that I did not think it safe to come, without a Guard, which together with the Battoes with presents Stores &c<sup>a</sup> has delayed me longer than I expected; I am sorry for it upon your account, but now I will make amends by making what dispatch I can.

### BRETHREN

of the five Nations I will begin upon a thing of a long Standing, our first Brotherhood: My Reason for it is I think there are several among you, who seem to forget it: It may seem Strange to you how I, a Foreigner, should know this, but I tell you I found out some of the Old Writings of our Forefathers, which was thought to have been lost, and in this old Valuable Record I find, that our first Friendship commenced at the Arrival of the first great Canoe or Vessell at Albany, at which you were much Surprized, but finding what it contained pleased you so much, being things for your purpose, as our People convinced you of by shewing you the use of them, that you all Resolved to take the greatest care of that Vessell, that nothing should hurt her: Whereupon it was agreed to tye her fast with a great Rope to one of the largest Nut Trees on the bank of the River, But on further Consideration in a fuller meeting, it was thought safest, fearing the wind should blow down that Tree, to make a long Rope and tie her fast at Onondaga, which was accordingly done, and the Rope put under your Feet,



that if any thing hurt or touched said Vessell, by the shaking of the Rope you might know it, and then agreed to rise all as one and see what the matter was, and who ever hurt the Vessell, was to Suffer; After this was agreed on, and done, you made an offer to the Governour to enter into a Band of Friendship with him, and his people, which he was so pleased at that he told you he would find a Strong Silver Chain, which would never break Slip or Rust, to bind you and him forever in Brothership together, and that your Warriours and our should be as one heart one head one Blood &c<sup>a</sup> and that what happened to the one happened to the other: after this firm agreement was made, our Forefathers finding it was good, and foreseeing the many advantages both sides would Reap by it, Ordered that if ever that Silver Chain should turn the least Rusty, offer to Slip or break, that it should be immediately brightened up again, and not let it Slip or break upon any account, for then you and we were both dead; Brethren these are the words of our Wise Forefathers, which some among you know very well to be so; Now Brethren understanding or hearing that the French our and your common Enemy, were endeavouring to blind fold you, and get you to Slip your hands out of that Chain, which as our Forefathers said would certainly be our Destruction, I now out of a tender regard for your Safety and welfare as well as Ours, Conjure you not to lissen any more to the deceitfull French, who Aim at nothing more than to destroy you all if in their power; but Stick fast to the Old agreement which you will find the best

A large Belt of Wampum

### BRETHREN

of the five Nations in the next place I must tell you, I am sent here by order of your Brother the Governour, As also the Governour of Boston, to Stop your going to Canada they having heard (to their great Concern) that you were determind soon to go that way again, which is quite Contrary to your Engagements, and contrary to the Custom of all Nations in the World in Time of



War. Brethren you take wrong the first Message I sent you with a Belt of wampum, by imagining I meant to Stop up all your Roads, for I only meant that Road leading to Canada. You may Remember your Brother the Governour and I ever since the War, desired and pressed you all to use your Interest every other way, where you had or could make any, Now I must tell you and assure you, that he and I are of the same mind Still, and desire you by this Belt of Wampum to use your Interest every where you can, but by no means whatsoever offer to go to Canada.

A Belt

BRETHREN

I am to assure you that if you Stay home from Canada that your Brothers the Governours of York &c<sup>a</sup> will endeavour as soon as Possible, to get back your Flesh and Blood from Canada, which you say is the only thing induces you to go; this they would have tried before now for, but that you went down last year, when they imagined you might get them, but finding that would not do, I desire you now by this Belt of Wampum, not to try any more, but leave it intirely to your Brother &c<sup>a</sup>, who will use their indeavours and are most likely to Succeed.

A Belt

BRETHREN

of the five Nations You all come to me last Spring with Several Belts of Wampum, desiring liberty to go to Canada, and take the last Tryal to fetch your Flesh and blood (the Caghnawagees) from there, which was agreed to at your earnest request and promise of returning back again in a Month, but instead of that you Staid there the whole Summer, and did not bring one of your Flesh and blood along with you, which makes me think that that was not your Business there, only to talk with our Enemy the Governour of Canada, which is quite wrong; you at the same time begged earnestly that I would keep all the Warriours of the five Nations at home, (although then ready to go) until you returned, which I

expecting would be about a Month, agreed to, fearing as you told me that their going to War while you were there, would overset what you went about, and might be the occasion of all your deaths in case they had committed any Hostilities in the French Country, while you were there. Now Brethren I am sorry I've reason to tell you that I think your going to Canada last year has been the occasion of our loosing several of our people, whose Scalps I dont doubt you have seen brought in there in Triumph, while our hands were tyed here by you, which was a hard case, And should you now talk or think of going that way again, what must the Consequences be. Nothing surer than Death, and an everlasting Scandal for ever: Wherefore Brethren I most earnestly desire you all by this Belt of Wampum, not to listen anymore to the deceitful French, who have ever been your Enemy, nor offer to look that way now

#### A Belt

#### BRETHREN

of the five Nations, I desire you to open your Ears and mind what I say to you, As I have in the beginning reminded you of the Old Agreement made by our Noble Forefathers Which was that we were and should ever remain as One Flesh one Blood one head &ca and that what happened to the one happened to the other. Now Brethren you see we have got the Frenchman's Ax sticking fast in our heads, day after day, and the Five Nations also, some of the most principal you see were murdered the other day, in their own Fields, by the French and Cagneuagees: You the five Nations have not hurt the Caghnewagees, as yet, tho' in your power often to do it, So that it appears plainly by their using the Five Nations in such a Barbarous unprecedented manner, that they aim at nothing else but to quarrel with and destroy you, which has ever been their View, and you all by sorrowful experience have formerly seen and felt, when they used to destroy your Castles and Sacrificed such Numbers of your brave predecessors, that there lyes large heaps of their bones ever since scattered over the whole

Country: That alone any Man would think was Sufficient to Stir up an everlasting Resentment in you against such a set of Barbarous people, if there remained the least Spark of that great Spirit in you, which your brave Ancestors were noted through the World for.

Wherefore Brethren as you may plainly see they mean to Sacrifice you as well as us, If they could, I now desire you if there remains the least Spark of that noble Spirit in you which your brave Ancestors were noted to have through the World, that you may now follow your Brother's desire, and use the Ax against them, which you have so long in your hands.

A very large Belt

#### BRETHREN

of the five Nations I have one thing to desire of you, which as Brothers I expect you will be Sincere and tell me, your going to Canada last year and desire of going there now, makes me think you cannot be sincere or hearty in your Brothers Cause, for it is impossible to be true to Both, Wherefore I desire you to drop the one intirely and stand by your own Brethren, otherwise I insist upon your declaring your Sentiments, that I may when I return give an Account of it to your Brother. and likewise to your Father the King.

A Belt.

#### BRETHREN

of the five Nations as I have desired and expect you will all mind your Brother the Governour's News, This is to assure you if you do, That the King your Father has sent Orders to the Governour to take care of your Castles and Familys, while your Men are out at War, And has Ordered me to look out proper places to erect Forts for your Safety, which I have done since I came up here, and will immediately set about Building them, provided you all agree to it, and come together: I have also one thing further to tell you Brethren, that the King your Father has sent you a parcel of Goods for the use of your Familyes, As a token of his love to all those who



are hearty in his cause, and mind his News: I expect you will soon see and receive 'em, from your Brother the Governour at Albany, where I desire you may be all ready to come and meet him when called upon.

A Belt.

*The Five Nations Answer.*

April 26<sup>th</sup> 1748.

BROTHER

we are very thankfull to you for reminding us of the old Agreement made by our Forefathers, and are overjoyed to hear that you have found it out, and hope you will take care not to let it be lost again, for we are sensible that keeping up to them Rules laid down to us thereby, is the only way to enable us and you to withstand our Enemies, and preserve our Lives, Wherefore you may depend upon it that all the Arts and Cunning ways of the French which its true they use a great deal of, shall never get us to drop our Friendship to you our Brethren.

A large Belt.

BROTHER

as you have now Stopped the Road to Canada, and desire us by no means whatsoever to go that way, We the five Nations now assembled here cant help telling you, That we think it very hard and Cruel to be hindred from Fetching our own Flesh and Blood from thence, who lye rotting and dyeing in Irons, when we are offered them only to go for them; Had you got them from thence as you have your own people, we should not think of going to Canada as Friends, but in another manner, however upon your promise of Redeeming them soon, we all agree to your desire, and promise You we will not go to Canada, nor look that Way before you make a Tryal for the Redemption of our people, and as you Say you have so many French prisoners, we think you may easily do it if you have a love for us, There is nothing in the World



would give us all a greater pleasure than to have our people from thence, wherefore beg earnestly Brother you will make haste, and we assure you by this Belt of Wampum that we shall not go to Canada.

A Belt

BROTHER

what you say is Right about our going down to you, last Spring for Liberty to go to Canada to take the last tryal for our Flesh and Blood the Caghnewagees, We assure you when we went away, We had no other View, and thought to return again immediately, but as we were at Montreal the News of the five Nations Killing and taking several French just come there, which we did not expect, upon that we were all Ordered to Quebec, where they were going to put us all in Goal, however they did not, but kept us there as prisoners 92 days, and so come away at last with only two of our prisoners, who were in Irons, the Governour telling Us, that if we come or sent this Spring for the rest, he would let them go, provided the five Nations Committed no Hostilities in that Time, if they did the least harm, he assured us that he would then immediately put all the prisoners to Death: Now Brother as to your hands being tyed by us, It is true we begged that the Warriours of the five Nations might not go a Fighting to Canada, until we returned, but only to Scour about the Woods near home, Which we thought best, not imagening at the same time, that there would be so much mischief done as there was, Expecting when we got there to prevail with the Caghnewagees to be easy at least, if we could not get them along with us, which we find we could not, being too much under the directions of the French. Now Brother as we have told you the affair, we hope you will not blame us as you have done, But be assured that our Resolution is to live and dye by you:

A Belt

BROTHER

we listen to you with open Ears, and mind what you Say you may depend upon it, And we hope you will not

make a doubt of it, that our Firm Resolution is to keep up in every Step to the Rules laid by our Forefathers, and as we have your Ax so long in hand, We assure you that we have been ever since we first took it up, always ready to make use of it in Conjunction with you and will ever Continue so.

A Belt

BROTHER

as you desired us to open our minds and tell you our Resolution, We now tell you in Answer to that, our firm Resolution is to stand by you as Brothers for ever, and to make use of the Ax we have in our hands, when ever it is thought requisite. But Brother we were in hopes to have used it before now to some purpose, as you told us two years ago that you were then ready to March with your Army against Canada, but instead of an Army you only sent out small parties several of whom were by that means cut to pieces, had you gone on with your Army and Ships as you told us you would, and assisted us properly to get over the Foreign Indians to our Interest, Who offered their Service, then we should have been able with the loss of a few Men to have drove the French and his Allies into the great Lakes, and drown them, but as you have not done that, which we are Sorry for, We tell you now Brother, that according to your desire we used what Interest we could that way, and have gained a considerable Number of the Foreign Indians who were ready to join you and us, But as there is no Sign of an Armeey now, nor the encouragement given to them which they expected, we Cannot pretend now to say what they will do.

A Belt

BROTHER

as you have now taken a View of some of our Castles and told us the Governour our Brother Ordered you to fortify them, provided we all agreed to it, and come to gether, We return him and you many thanks for your care of us, and shall as soon as possible move and come together, and then we will acquaint you of it, and expect

you will then fulfill your promise, We also return you many thanks for the present brought us now, which saved us a great deal of trouble of going down far and fetching them, which would fall hard upon several of our Old People, We also assure you that we will be ready to go and meet our Brother the Governour when he Calls us

A Belt

BRETHREN

of the five Nations I now return you all my hearty thanks for your ready and agreeable Compliance to all my desires, which I hope will send much to your advantage as well as ours, for by such a good Agreement between us, we shall the better be able to preserve our Lives and destroy our Enemies. Brethren if what you now promise me this day comes from the bottom of Your hearts, as I expect it does, then I shall return to your Brother the Governour with a Cheerfull heart, and tell him you are Still Sincere and true to your Engagements; and I dare assure you all that you will ever find him so to you in every respect

A Belt

A true Copy

Ex<sup>d</sup> ⑧

Geo. Banyar

*From Governor George Clinton*

FORT GEORGE 25<sup>th</sup> April 1748

Sir

I have received your favour by M<sup>r</sup> Clinton who I take to be a very good Sort of a Man & could have wished I had been acquainted with him Sooner. I am very buisey as you may imagine, tho' as Maj<sup>r</sup> Rutherford goes home by this opportunity he will be able to clear up matters intirely & justifie your Character which I have recommended to him there is nobody knows any thing of it nor will till the day he goes on board. I have inclosd

your letter to his Grace, under cover to my Nephew with Strict charge to take an oppertunity of delivering it when alone at Claremont & to take care he reads it, I also send home your remarks I expect Rutherford back by y<sup>e</sup> first Ships in y<sup>e</sup> Fall & I don't suppose I shall be going before then as I dont hear any thing of any ships for me.

I am very sensible you have received no benefitt from your Post as Surveyor Since I have been in y<sup>e</sup> Province, but these lands y<sup>t</sup> have been Petitiond for will be granted away as soon as my back is turned & a great deal more which I suppose y<sup>e</sup> C. J. has in petto, which must be Surveyed before granted, y<sup>t</sup> you will have a chance for your Fees tho' I shall have none for mine. I did consult M<sup>r</sup> Alexand<sup>r</sup> about y<sup>r</sup> Commission who told me I coud give it for life, and another but shall do nothing till I hear further from you.

At my leaving the Governm<sup>t</sup> I will appoint your son Storekeeper w<sup>ch</sup> will not be in y<sup>e</sup> power of C. J. to remove as y<sup>e</sup> Salary is paid by my Agent I shall give the proper directions ab<sup>t</sup> it my head is full of ten thousand things & Memorandums to give to Rutherford who is just come down from Albany, y<sup>t</sup> I must desire to be excused, We all joyn in our Compliment to you & your family & am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your faithfull friend

& Servant,

G CLINTON

*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*

[Copy]

May 9<sup>th</sup> 1748

I had not the honour of yours by M<sup>r</sup> Clinton till after my daughter was gon for New York otherwise I should have taken the liberty which you are pleas'd to indulge me to write by every safe oppertunity & to have thankd your Excell<sup>r</sup> for the civilities shown M<sup>r</sup> Clinton We



hear that it is publickly talkt in New York that Major Rutherford is gon in the Oswego I heartily wish him a prosperous Voyage I am certainly inform'd that the Assembly have given it as a General instruction to their Agent to follow Admiral Waren's advice in every thing Your Excelly can best judge Whether it can be of any advantage to him to have such a strong proof of his being at the head of a party in this Province in opposition to the administration & what use may be proper to make of this information By the Death of the Judges in this County a new Commiss<sup>n</sup> may be expected & I believe will be moved for The Nomination highly Concerns many especially those who have appear'd for your Excell<sup>y</sup> as no County has don so remarkably & they expect to be consider'd on this account I hope it may not be thought unreasonable that I be consulted in the nomination since by my living in the County I may seem as capable of judgeing of proper person to recommend as any other of the Council We are exceedingly pleas'd with the hopes of seeing Capt<sup>n</sup> Clinton soon in the Country we shall endeavour to make his jaunt as agreeable to him as we can I know not how to acknowledge the honour which M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton does me as I am inform'd of it by M<sup>r</sup> Clinton I must beg of your Excell<sup>y</sup> to make my most dutyfull acknowledgements for it I must delay writing on the subject of my commission till I have a more safe conveyance.

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*From Governor George Clinton*

NEW YORK 16 May 1748

Sir

I am just favoured with y<sup>rs</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> I think M<sup>r</sup> Clinton so very good a Sort of a Man y<sup>t</sup> I shoud be glad it was in my power to serve him. Maj<sup>r</sup> Rutherford is gone from England & I hope to some purpose & I have particulary recommend<sup>d</sup> to him to clear up to y<sup>e</sup> D. N. & Ministry

any ill impressions they might have receiv<sup>d</sup> of you, But am affraid he is gone to late for me to see y<sup>e</sup> good effect, tho' he has promised to be back by y<sup>e</sup> first good opportunity after he has settled his affairs, y<sup>t</sup> I intend Staying as long as possibly I can. Nothing can show planer y<sup>e</sup> good intention of y<sup>e</sup> Noble assembly, then their last days votes where they appoint a Committee to assist their speaker to correspond with their Agent & y<sup>e</sup> Orders then made (tho' I suppose them to be ready) I believe was put in after I had adjourn'd them, & have sent it to y<sup>e</sup> D. N. & Lords of Trade desiring they will receive no memorial or representation from M<sup>r</sup> Charles but what I assent to, & have also writt Guerin to go to M<sup>r</sup> Stone & talk it over & since y<sup>e</sup> have given Maj<sup>r</sup> Ruth<sup>d</sup> full instructions about it, I have also given him the Speech I made to y<sup>e</sup> Assembly when I Dissolved them the Second time to prove it faulse what they have said y<sup>t</sup> we always agreed before you was prime Minister as they term you. M<sup>r</sup> Charles is no under Secre<sup>y</sup> to y<sup>e</sup> D. of N. nor woud he ever been known to him but thro' my Nephew on my account, but I have put a stope to y<sup>t</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Shirly has writt to me y<sup>t</sup> he proposes coming to New York some time in June to go up with me to Albany, which requires some consideration and our meeting, and a good occasion offers at present your being appointed as president of y<sup>e</sup> Council to Swear me as Adm<sup>r</sup> of the White as you will See by y<sup>e</sup> inclosed & nobody Else can this will touch the C. J. home for he always used all y<sup>e</sup> Commiss<sup>rs</sup> I received before was directed to him, I had some disign of coming up to be Qualifyed at y<sup>r</sup> Sons but have talked with Kennedy since & we think it better for you to come down for y<sup>e</sup> other will be acting as it was in privitt, I have therefore told him (as my having my Commiss<sup>n</sup> come is talked off) y<sup>t</sup> I have received it but receive no Compliments with it as it is directed to you to be delivered by you to me when Qualyfied M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton is of y<sup>e</sup> same way of thinking, & desires you will accept of a Bed which she has ready for you in y<sup>e</sup> Fort

during your stay, & think you cant do better then take a passage down with y<sup>e</sup> Capt<sup>n</sup>.

I have just received an account from Albany that Coll<sup>l</sup> Phil Schyler is gone out with a party of 80 to Scour y<sup>e</sup> Woods, by whose orders I dont know, however I have sent up Johnson his Commission as Coll<sup>l</sup> & he is just returned from y<sup>e</sup> Indians but have not heard from him, We all joyn in Compliments being very Sincerely

Your faithfull friend &  
Servant

G CLINTON

Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADW<sup>z</sup> COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

Your Stay here will be as  
long & as short as you please  
this I tell you y<sup>t</sup> M<sup>rs</sup> Colden may  
not be uneasie.

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*From Thomas Osborne*

LONDON June 6<sup>th</sup> 1748.

S<sup>r</sup>

I was favour'd with your's of the 21<sup>st</sup> of March this day, and upon Receipt of it, I waited upon M<sup>r</sup> Collinson, he informs me he sent you the Copies of the Indian History by Severall Ships, And he is afraid that some of them is lost, but you will hear further about them; for he proposes to write to you himself by this ship. The Book was received in the World with the greatest Reputation; But I find in most Books after there has been a Run of about two or three hundred, that it drops off but Slowly, which is the Case of this, for I have Actually not Sold above three hundred, and two hundred which I have sent Abroad to different places which I have no Account yett of the Sale off, So that I have Actually by me near 500 Books, Yet they drop off every now & then; I will take Care & pay your Compliments to Gen<sup>l</sup> Oglethorpe.

I Should take it as a favour if you could any way's acquaint M<sup>r</sup> Read of Philadelphia, That as affairs would not permit him to put my Books to Sale, that he would lett your friend M<sup>r</sup> Benjamin Franklin have them, and that he would be so kind as to dispose of them to the best advantage he can, And if I find my Account in it, I will keep a Constant Correspondence with him, and must beg of him to Close the Account once a year. There are some Copies of the Indian Nations in M<sup>r</sup> Read's Bale.

As you was so kind as to recommend M<sup>r</sup> James Parker to me, and as he has allready Sent me a Bill, and Seem's to act with a great deal of Honour, I would do nothing that was Unhandsome by him, neither would I do anything to disoblige you. You mentioned in your Letter to me, that you proposed to Settle your Third Son in the Bookselling way, You and M<sup>r</sup> Parker best know, whether that place will Support two Bookseller's I think it would not be Improper to consult on that Head, if it wants any Consideration. I shall defer sending you any Books, till I have the Pleasure of hearing from you again, in Answer to these particulars, But in the meantime there Shall be no time lost, for I will be preparing, and have ready to send you by the first Opportunity, After I have reced: the next favour from you; A Large Collection not less then three or four hundred Pound's worth, And as there is now I hope a General Peice, there will not be that danger there was. I Shall Charge the Books, to you Son at the prices they Sell for here, And as to the Insurance and Other Charges, I must leave it Entirely to your Son to put upon every particular. This I shall expect that the Account may be Closed once a Year, and if I can be paid, what I have Charged for the Books at the prices they Sell for here, and all Charges that I am out of Pockett; what other profitts may Accrew I will leave to your Son's Generosity.

There is one thing that I must advise you off. That there are a great Number of Books, proper to be Sent that cannot be gott, without ready Money. Now if you are Resolved that if your Son, should sett out with a



good figure, You must advance at least Two hundred Pounds to Supply such book's as I mention; by which mean's Gentlemen will buy them of Your Son, rather then be at the Trouble of Sending for them to England, And your Son will make as good a figure as any Shop in London, with what I Shall Send him besides. If you think well of this Scheme and have Confidence in me, I Expect a Bill for some such Sum, when I hear from you in your Next. So that you See I have put this affair upon your own footing, Only adding the Charges of the Exchange, freight & Commissions, as for what other Profitts may Accrew, You see I have left it Entirely to Your Son's Generosity, will Latin, French, or Italian books sell with you. Law Books I know will, which I shall Supply you with.

As to the work that you are upon; I do not know how to make proposal's about it, but if you have any thoughts of Printing it, and I like the Undertaking, I will print it at my own Expence, and your Son, Shall have what he think's he can Use, at the Prime Cost. As to the Charge of Printing you may Judge from the History of the five Nations, Paper, Print, & other Incidents Stood me in above one hundred and Twenty pounds. The copy must be Secured and Enter'd into the Stationer's Company, and giving of them about Thirty books. I will very readily Serve you in Undertaking the Management of it. Pray lett me hear from you the first opportunity, and am

S<sup>r</sup>

Y<sup>r</sup> Most Obed<sup>t</sup> H<sup>ble</sup> Serv:

THO: OSBORNE

P. S. Have you any Book-binder's in Your Country, if you have, it would be better, for both of us, to send the books in Quires, what I can Mr Collinson desires his Respect to you.

[Indorsed]

For  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
at New York.

*From Peter Collinson*

I am glad to find my Dear Friend Is fled from noise & Confusion to his Little Town there you may Safely & Quietly reflect on the uncertainty of Things Here below, and how Little they Deserve our Attention.

I have Sent a Little Tract Intitaled Principles of Philosophy to our Worthy Fr<sup>d</sup> J. Alexander when He has Perused It I desired Him to Send it to you this will afford you some Entertainment How farr the Author may be Justified In his principles, that I must submit to you, I am Seated in the Midest of Business So little Time to Look into so Such dilicate Subjects

I believe I told you your Treatise on Gravitation is so much admird by the Germans that it is Translateing into their Tongue by a Mecoenas in that Science at Lipsick Doc<sup>r</sup> Gronovius is very Well but the Warrs & Disturbances in Holland have prevented his Remembering his Friends—in the Trunk is a letter from your Nephew who is a very Ingenious Sober young Man & Continues Brewers Clerk which I hope is the End will turn out to his advantage.

I had 10 Coppies of y<sup>r</sup> History Seven I have sent at Different times & by different ships to you which I hope will all Come to hand I presume'd on your Consent for the disposal of the others, to your fr<sup>ds</sup> at their own Desire & request viz to Doc<sup>r</sup> Gronovius & Doc<sup>r</sup> Mitchell and one I kept my Self.

I am my Dear friend

Y<sup>rs</sup> affectionately

P COLLINSON

Lond<sup>n</sup>

June 20 1748.

[Indorsed]

For

Doc<sup>r</sup> COLDEN

New York.

The Germans approve your Scheme as farr as page 34 but afterwards they are at a loss to comprehend it.

BOSTON 27 June 1748

At a Meeting of the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> for Indian affairs

Whereas the Rev<sup>d</sup> Doc<sup>r</sup> Williams by his last Will bequeathed an Estate in England to the Corporation for propogating the Gospell in New England & parts adjacent in America the Income of Said Estate to be applied for the Maintenance of Missionarys to carry the Gospell to such Indian Nations as are destitute of it: and whereas the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> appointed by said Corporation have upon due Concideration agreed to offer two Missionarys to the six Nations & to recommend M<sup>r</sup> Elihu Spencer & M<sup>r</sup> Job Strong for this purpose who are well approved as persons of Good learning, and of Sober Life & conversation, & who are willing to undertake the same. Therefore Voted. That this important affair be humbly recommended to their Excellencys Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton & Gov<sup>r</sup> Shirley and that they be desired to use their Influence that those Nations may receive the two Gentlemen above mentioned, or such other Missionarys as may be procured upon this Foundation, or in case the Circumstances of this People sho<sup>d</sup> render it inconvenient to entertain Missionarys at this time; that then the said six Nations would recommend it to their Children who live at Susquehana or parts adjacent to receive the s<sup>d</sup> Missionarys amongst them.

Copy examin'd

And<sup>w</sup>. Oliver Secy to  
y<sup>e</sup> Commiss<sup>r</sup>.

*From Governor George Clinton*

Sir

I have just time to writt by Doc<sup>r</sup> Sheyborough who has promised to put it a shoar at y<sup>r</sup> Sons, to desire you will think on y<sup>e</sup> inclosed & prepairing something to say to y<sup>e</sup> Indians at most of their Greviance is contained

therein by this opportunity 25 French Prison<sup>rs</sup> goes up in order for Coll<sup>l</sup> Johnson to send away a Flag of Truce to Canada with such other Prisoners as he can pick up on y<sup>e</sup> Frontiers to redeem not only y<sup>e</sup> Indians but Christians which I hope will Satisfie y<sup>e</sup> Indians as to y<sup>t</sup> regret.

The assembly has freely told me they will do nothing in their Resolves yesterday y<sup>t</sup> I intend prorouging them today or tomorrow, The Chief Justice is making all y<sup>e</sup> mischief in his power as you may see by y<sup>t</sup> Foole Beekmans Motion but I have queld it to his great disapointment He is going up & Murray & off course for no good, which will make it absolutely Necessary for me to have a friend with me to advise & consult with, I must therefore desire you will be ready at y<sup>r</sup> Sons ab<sup>t</sup> the Eighth of next Month & must insist on y<sup>r</sup> not failing me, M<sup>r</sup> Kennedy goes up & is very busey in provided y<sup>e</sup> needfull, I am in haist but always very Sincerely

Yours

New York 30 June.

G CLINTON

*Gov. Clinton's Speech to the Indians*

[In Colden's handwriting]

Bretheren

It is with much pleasure I see so great a number of the six Nations met here together at this place & I give you all a most hearty wellcome

I inform'd the King your Father with what zeal you join'd his subjects in the War against the French in Canada His Majesty has order'd me to make a considerable present to you as a token of his being well pleased with your conduct on that occasion & of the confidence he places in your Fidelity & zeal for his Service

This is a proper occasion to Brighten & strengthen that covenant chain which has continued so firm between You and the Kings subjects ever since we first became bretheren without its having been at any time weakned by the rust of time or broken by the unwearied attempts of our Maliceous & cunning ennemies.



As the Strength & Security of our Bretheren arises from this chain it has at all times been the subject on which our inveterate ennemies have employ'd their malice knowing well that while this chain subsists all their attempts to hurt us must become vain & ineffectual For that reason their principal efforts at all times have been to weaken & brake it by indeavouring to infuse Jealousies among us For this purpose our Bretheren know that they have by their comissaries never caused to spread wicked & false stories among *the Bretheren* and as by such means only our Ennemies can hope to weaken or break this chain I hope *the Bretheren* will carefully guard against giving ear to every thing that may be spoken or whisper'd for that End. Now by this Belt I brighten & strenthen this chain that it may remain strong & firm as long as the Sun & Moon shall endure hereby assuring you that I shall have Your Safety & Prosperity equally at heart with the other his Majesty's subjects whom he has placed under my care.

But before I leave this subject I must warn our Bretheren of one thing which I suspect our ennemies may endeavour to accomplish at this time because they have often attempted it. That is to draw some considerable men among you to Canada on some pretence or other in hopes thereby to delude you to place some confidence in the Governor of Canada By this means they hope to raise Jealousies among us of each other, but you may depend that they who give such advice are in their hearts ennemies to our Bretheren who desire to weaken that chain in which your Strength security consists They are desirous to make you break with your old friends who have at all time been steadfast to you & to make you trust those who are your inveterate ennemies & who would rejoice to see your nations destroy'd who, when ever they have had it in their power, have given you strong & cruel proofs of their hatred of you.

While you remain entirely united with your Brethren the English you can have no reason to fear any thing

the French dare to attempt unless they can delude you to trust to any of their fair promises

As I will hide nothing from you I now tell you that We have reports that a Cessation of Arms is agreed to between the King your Father & the French King But as several other great Kings are join'd in the present War it may be uncertain how far things may be adjusted so as to bring about a peace Therefor I shall at this time desire you to keep the Ax which you receiv'd from me till such time as I can give you more certain intelligence of Peace or of the continuance of the War However this shall happen the same care shall be taken of you as of our own people. I have sent a number of French prisoners to Canada in order to redeem such of the Bretheren as have had the misfortune to fall into their hands & in this as well as on other occasions I shall take the same care of you that I do of his Majesty's other subjects.

His Excellency the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Massachusets Bay has brought fourteen French prisoners to this place that in case the prisoners which I have sent to Canada be not sufficient to redeem all your people from Captivity these may be exchanged for them

Bretheren You have since you came to this place given a new & strong proof of your love to us your Bretheren & Fidelity to the King your Father by the great number of your warriors who so chearfully & speedily have gon out in quest of that party of the Ennemy who a few days since surprised & killed many of your Bretheren at Schenetady. *I hope we shall soon rejoice together in seeing them return victorious over our cruel ennemies.* You may assure your selves that this instance of your affection & heartiness in our cause shall never be forgot by your bretheren & I shall fully & truely represent it to the King your Father.

You have at this time a strong proof of the friendship which the other Colonies especially the Massachusets bay have for you by the Governor of that Colony's coming in person to this Interview *to shew the Regard he has for you* of which you will be fully assured from his

Excellys own mouth;—*But* his Excellency's travilling by land at this season of the year in such time of danger under many difficulties in the way least you should wait too long here sufficiently shew how much he has our common wellfair at heart

[Endorsed by Gov. CLINTON]  
My Speech to the Indians  
July 1748

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*From James Colden*

WHITSOM 12<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>. 1748.

D: B<sup>r</sup>

I have heard nothing from you for near a year, which gives me more uneasyness than I incline to express, did you know the concern I have for you, I perswade my Self you would write me oftener my Son Sandy writes me that M<sup>r</sup> Collinson told him he had a letter from New York giving him an account that your differences among your Selves had risen to that hight that you had thought fit to retire from Publick business. I hope this will give you no uneasiness you are not the first who hath met with ungratefull returns for the Service they have done their country We have too many instances of this in all nations, to think it strange when it happens. It is no doubt the duty of every man to Serve his country as far as he can, and every good man will do it, but when a party Spirit (which is the bane of every Society) so far prevails, that they both mistake their interest and their friends, and refuse the Service offered them. I cannot See that any man is obliged, to continue to oppose a Strong and violent party. Seeing while this party heat prevails he hath no ground to hope he shal be able to do any good, and may very like to hurt him self by becoming the object of the partys malice, which often cause men to carry their resentment to Such a length as no one could think possible, if you had not instances of it before our eyes. I think therefore you have done well in re-



tiring from publick business and I think you ought not to return until the opposite party come to themselves: which it is likely they may Sooner do when you are out of their Sight, than if you had continued to oppose them all here are in their ordinary and desire to be affectionately remembered to you, Sister and your Children & as doth

D B:  
Your affectionate B<sup>r</sup>  
JAMES COLDEN

[Indorsed]  
To  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
at  
New York.

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*Cadwallader Colden to Governor William Shirley*  
[Copy]

FORT GEORGE NEW YORK Aug 22 1748.

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency soon after your Excellency's sloop was under sail discover'd that you had left your letter to the D of Bedford behind you He immediately sent an express to Hellgate with it in hopes to overtake the Sloop before she passed that place but the express came too late He now sends it by express with the letters which his Excellency had resolv'd to write before your Excell<sup>y</sup> left this & desires the favour of your Excell<sup>y</sup> to dispatch them by the first opportunity He has not a single line from England but is in hopes that he may learn something from your Excell<sup>y</sup> by the return of this express if not by the next post Since your Excell<sup>y</sup> went it is talkt that the party in the opposition design to shew their resentment of the respect that the Corporation of this City shew'd to your Excell<sup>y</sup> & their own Gov<sup>r</sup> (tho' no man can blame them for extravagance in it) by endeavouring to turn out at the next Michaelmass election those who would have perswaded the others to have don



it in a handsomer manner but notwithstanding of this the Gov<sup>rs</sup> friends do not seem apprehensive of their efforts. The Gov<sup>r</sup> has fatigued himself in writing his letters & tho' he has sat close from six of the clock this morning he has not finished now at five in the evening & therefor begs your Excell<sup>y</sup> will excuse his not writing to you He & his Lady both desire their Compliments to be made to you I can assure your Excell<sup>y</sup> that none can be more sensible of your Excell<sup>y</sup>'s friendship than they are both We shall all long to hear of your safe arival & that you have had a happy meeting with your children & we hope that as the Wind continued fair you have had a speedy & pleasant voyage I am sensibly touch'd with the confidence your Excell<sup>y</sup> was pleas'd to place in me while you was here It shall be my constant indeavour not to be thought unworthy of the honour you have don me & that your Excell<sup>y</sup> may be assured that I am with the greatest sincerity

S<sup>r</sup>

To Gov<sup>r</sup> SHIRLEY

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*From Peter Collinson*

LOND Aug 25: 1748

I have very Little more to Say to my Dear fr<sup>d</sup> then to Inquire after his Welfare and Acquaint Him with Mine and to felicitate Him on the peace The finishing Stroke Wee expect very Soone, but so many contending Interests have a multitude of Clothing articles to Settle—Wee have thanks to the Bountifull Giver a year of great plenty of all Sorts & Grain & fruits—& a fine Harvest—

But a remarkable thing has happen'd, a Long Series of Eaterly Winds the begining of this Month has brought a Swarm of Locusts amongst us they fell very much in and about the Citty—Doc<sup>r</sup> Shaw who resided many years in Africa Sayes they are some Species that come in such prodegius Swarms to infect that Country & where they Lite they devour all before them

I wish they Lay not their Eggs & become a future  
pest Here

As you make Little Excursions next year about the  
Country pray think of your Botanic friends with a few  
Seeds of @ticular plants

This is the Time of the Long Vacation every one is  
retreated to their Country Abodes so that Wee have Little  
Stirring of any thing thats Curious

my Dear fr<sup>d</sup> farewell

I am y<sup>rs</sup> affectionately

P COLLINSON.

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
New York.

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*From Governor George Clinton*

FORT GEORGE 7<sup>th</sup> Septemb<sup>r</sup> [1748]

Sir

I have adjourned the Assembly till y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Inst, and  
intend it for a fortnight longer which will till 3<sup>d</sup> October  
& then to meet to do business, but I hope you will come  
Sooner to Settle some affaires y<sup>t</sup> will be very necessary  
before Catherwood leaves this place tho I hope to dis-  
patch in this Month, besides it will require Some time  
to be together before y<sup>e</sup> Assembly meets & your Bed &  
apartment is ready, Our London ships are arrived Poor  
Majr Ruth went home in a bad time both in himself &  
us, just upon y<sup>e</sup> peace & every body going abroad or on  
partyes of pleasure & I expect him by the Oswego in-  
closed is Horsmandens Petition I think I never read a  
more fulsome low thing in my life it will be well to have  
some answer ready if their should be occasion & if you can  
send one soon I shall have an oppertunity of Sending it  
to Guerin, but I fancy hardley y<sup>e</sup> L<sup>ds</sup> of the Council being  
very well pleased with my Reasons for Suspending him,  
& I am advised by M<sup>r</sup> Sharp to make it Sure to Name

Two in their room as I intend doing as I intend in y<sup>e</sup> room of Uncle Courtland departed, the degrading intirely the C. J. is the thing I find Sticks & he fears will prove absolutely impracticable unless I can exhibit & maintain substantial articles of accusation ags<sup>t</sup> him, & the more so as its a doubt whether y<sup>e</sup> Duke of Bedf<sup>d</sup> will come to reverse an act of his Predecessors without some very cogent reason, I think what we have is pretty strong but if we can make it stronger y<sup>e</sup> better as I am determind to pursue, for which reason have absolutely refused an offer of a Man of War to come to York to carry me & my Family home it is by directions of y<sup>e</sup> Admiralty to Adm<sup>l</sup> Watson, & in order to bring things to some pass I am beginning to make a thorough change in y<sup>e</sup> County of Albany, as to Mayor Recorder & Sherriff &c &c. I have agreed w<sup>th</sup> Johnson for Receorder but y<sup>t</sup> not to be known yet & I believe have got a judge, being determined to fill up directly both His places & to appoint a Councillor in his room which I shall consult M<sup>r</sup> Alexander ab<sup>t</sup> & think will before you come down of your own County and Orange a good Leiut Coll<sup>ls</sup> to Snub old Chambers would be better then turning him out as I shoud not care for on y<sup>e</sup> Acc<sup>t</sup> of Chambers & his Wife who have been always very civil to my family & y<sup>e</sup> old Man is nothing, a Hint of some sort would not be amiss y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> C. J. has absolutely refused assisting me in any Shape which I think might be made good use off & fling y<sup>e</sup> blame upon him, for y<sup>e</sup> coming down.

His party is making strong pushes to Change y<sup>e</sup> Corporation Bills Walton Jn<sup>o</sup> Cruger, P<sup>r</sup> Depeyster & James Livingston Sett up, but the Mayor tells me he does not much fear

M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton desire her Compliments as does Harry & Lucy please to make mine being very Sincerely  
Sir

Your faithful friend & Servant  
G CLINTON

The inclosed Catherwood  
took up amongst y<sup>e</sup> letters.

*From Peter Kalm*

Dear Sir.

I have here the honour to send to you the letters of Mr Linnæus, which he did leave to me the last year, when I went from Sweden. it is about three weeks since I first came to this country. When I first was going from my own country, I thought that I should have the good luck to be here in the beginning of the last Spring; but great Storms in the See, besides the war, did hinder me from the same. Now, because I do not know if I can have the leisure and advantage to see you, Sir, I could not forbear to send you the above mentioned Mr. Linnæus<sup>s</sup> Lettre; I can't enough express the kind love and great esteem he have for you. I should too think meself very happy, if I could have the honour to see you and present pay you my respect; but I can't tell any thing yet, if I am to take the road from hence to New-England by water or by land. I am sent of the Royal Academie in Stockholm to make several observations in the Natural History of the most Northern parts of America, in Botanique, Zoologie, Astronomie etc. I have the mind to stay this next winter in Boston, or perhaps more to North, and the next Summer, if God Keep me Safe, I think to see some part of Canada; in the later end of the same summer I propose to return to England and so to my own country. If I did know, that you had no Exemplar of Mr. Linnæus his Fauna Suevica I could Spare you one thereof. I have yet by me one Exemplar of his Flora Zeylanica, if I come to you, Sir, you shall have the same too; I took some of his books with me, to give to my friends and the lovers of Natural History in this country, which, perhaps, not allways can have the same: I have jest had the advantage to be by Mr. Linnæus about 2 years time, and was loved of him as I was his own child. if it happen, that I am to take the way through New-York I will pay you my respect. /:Ignoscas, quæso, Vir Nobilissime, si minus bene lingua



vestra vernacula utar, notitia enim omni elegantissimae  
et utilissimae hujus linguae penitus carebam, priusquam  
anglicus salutassem terras.:/ I am,

Dear Sir

Your most humble Servant

PETER KALM.

Philadelphia, September 29, 1748.

P. S.

I should be very much obliged to you, Sir, if you could  
procure for me some Seeds of the kind of Acer, which the  
call Sugar-Maple, and whereof the Indians in some places  
make a sort of sugar.

[Indorsed]

For

Sir CADWALLADER COLDEN, Esq<sup>r</sup>

<sup>a</sup>

Coldenham  
New York.

*From Benjamin Franklin*

PHILAD<sup>a</sup> Sept. 29, 1748.

Sir

I received your Favour of the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst. which gave me  
the greater Pleasure, as 'twas so long since I had heard  
from you. I congratulate you on your Return to your  
beloved Retirement: I too am takeing the proper Meas-  
ures for obtaining Leisure to enjoy Life & my Friends  
more than heretofore, having put my Printing house  
under the Care of my Partner David Hall, absolutely left  
off Bookselling, and remov'd to a more quiet Part of the  
Town where I am settling my old Acc<sup>ts</sup>. and hope soon to  
be quite a Master of my own Time, and no longer (as the  
Song has it) *at every one's Call but my own*. If Health  
continues, I hope to be able in another Year to visit the  
most distant Friend I have, without Inconvenience.—  
With the same Views I have refus'd engaging further in  
publick Affairs. The Share I had in the late Association,  
&c. having given me a little present Run of Popularity,

there was a pretty general Intention of chusing me a Representative for the City at the next Election of Assemblymen; but I have desired all my Friends who Spoke to me about it, to discourage it, declaring that I should not Serve if chosen. Thus you see I am in a fair Way of having no other Tasks than such as I shall like to give my Self, and of enjoying what I look upon as a great Happiness, Leisure to read, study, make Experiments, and converse at large with such ingenious & worthy Men as are pleas'd to honour me with their Friendship or Acquaintance, on such Points as may produce something for the common Benefit of Mankind, uninterrupted by the little Cares & Fatigues of Business. Among other Pleasures I promise my self, that of Corresponding more frequently and fully with D<sup>r</sup> Colden is none of the least; I shall only wish that what must be so agreeable to me, may not prove troublesome to you.

I thank you for your kind recommending of me to M<sup>r</sup> Osborne. M<sup>r</sup> Read would readily have put the Books into my Hands, but it being now out of my Way to dispose of them, I propos'd to M<sup>r</sup> Hall the Taking them into his Shop; but he having looked over the Invoice, says they are charg'd so extravagantly high, that he cannot sell them for any Profit to himself, without hurting the Character of his Shop: He will however, at my Request, take the Indian Histories and put them on Sale; but the rest of the Cargo must lie I believe for M<sup>r</sup> Osborne's further Orders: I shall write to him by our next Vessels.

I am glad you have had an Opportunity of gaining the Friendship of Gov<sup>r</sup> Shirley, with whom tho' I have not the honour of being particularly acquainted, I take him to be a wise, good & worthy Man. He is now a Fellow Sufferer with you, in being made the Subject of some public virulent & Senseless Libels: I hope they give him as little Pain.—

M<sup>r</sup> Bartram continues well: Here is a Swedish Gentleman, a Professor of Botany, lately arriv'd, and I suppose will soon be your Way, as he intends for Canada, M<sup>r</sup>

Collinson & D<sup>r</sup> Mitchell recommend him to me as a very ingenious Man: Perhaps the enclos'd (left at the Post Office for you) may be from him. I have not seen him since the first Day he came. I deliver'd yours to M<sup>r</sup> Evans; and when I next see M<sup>r</sup> Bartram, shall acquaint him with what you say. I am, with great Esteem and Respect, D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obliged  
Humb<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To  
The hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Coldenham

Free

B FRANKLIN.

*John Colden to Maynard Guerin*

[Copy]

NEW YORK Nov<sup>r</sup> 19 1748

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton was pleased the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August last to apoint me Storekeeper to the Garrison of New York of which I beleive he has informed you but if it has been any how neglected M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood who is now going home can assure you of it I now draw on you a bill of excha for £ 10-17-10 St payable to M<sup>r</sup> P Collinson Merch<sup>t</sup> in London which I am informed is the Sallary for 3 months after the usual deductions are made

I hope you will please to pay it accordingly & I will be obliged to you if you will inform me what Sallary is annexed to that Office & what deductions are usually made out of it & likewise in what manner it would be properest for me to draw for it

I am S<sup>r</sup>

Y<sup>r</sup> most humble Ser<sup>t</sup>

J COLDEN

To MAYNARD GUERIN, Esq  
St James Park London.

*John Colden to Peter Collinson*

[Copy]

NEW YORK Nov<sup>r</sup> 19 1748S<sup>r</sup>

The Gov<sup>r</sup> has been pleased to apoint me Storekeeper to the Garrison of New York The Sallary of which comes to about £ 43 St pr annum My father has advised me to draw upon M<sup>r</sup> Guerin by whom it is passed for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter due the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month & to make it payable to you as I now do by the enclosed bill of exchange I beg the favour of you to receive it for me & to keep it by you till you hear further from me & that if you take the trouble of it you will please to inform me of the receipt of it by the first oppertunity & let me know whether my continuing to make it payable to you will be troublesome to you or whether you will accept of a power of attorney to receive that Sallary for me at all times as it becomes due which will save the formality of drawing bills for it I beg you will pardon this trouble from S<sup>r</sup>

Y<sup>r</sup> most obed<sup>t</sup> humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

J COLDEN

To Mr P COLLINSON  
Merch<sup>t</sup> in London

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*Bill of Exchange of John Colden*

Copy

NEW YORK 19<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1748Exch<sup>a</sup> for 10-17-10 Sterling

At thirty days sight pay this my first bill of Exchange (my second & third of the same tenour & date not being paid) to M<sup>r</sup> Peter Collinson Merch<sup>t</sup> in London or Order & place the same to my account as p<sup>r</sup> advice from

Your humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JOHN COLDEN

To MAYNARD GUERIN Esq  
Agent to the Independent  
Companies posted in New York.



*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*

[Unaddressed and Undated. Dec 8 1748]

This has occasion'd some reflections on what was under consideration before I left New York Your Excellency must have observ'd how difficult it is to get his Majesty's ministers to think of plantation affairs amidst the great variety of other affairs that they are necessarily employ'd in & therefore that they may not come to any determination in a long time which must produce greater inconveniencies to your Excellency than any determination whatsoever even the contrary to your Excellency's Expectations For this reason may it not be proper for your Excellency to do what is in your own power to do because as Mr Knowles observ'd it will be easier to get a thing don to be approved of than to get others to do it. And it will oblige the ministry to take the matters your Excellency has laid before them immediately under consideration or if they do not it will be a taut approbation of what your Excellency has don by suffering things to remain as they are If your Excellency do not will it not be naturally askt what is the reason that you are affray'd to do what is in your own power to do & which you represent as so necessary to be don must there not be some reason which you endeavour to hide & may not this give some credit to the vile calumnies which they otherwise could not obtain As to the objection of changing resolutions that is easily answer'd by the inconveniencies you observed upon more mature deliberation

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*From Governor George Clinton*

NEW YORK 15 Decemb 1748

Sir

I have received yours of y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Inst with a List inclosed for a New Commission of the Peace & Common

Please for Orange County, & which I shall pay a proper regard: But as M<sup>r</sup> Gabr<sup>l</sup> Ludlow has undertaken to complain of Col<sup>l</sup> Herring in a very gross manner which you may perceive by the inclosed letter to M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood I imagine it will be necessary to have your Sentiments, on y<sup>e</sup> complaint before I direct y<sup>e</sup> Commission to be made out, and for this purpose I would have you Send for Coll<sup>l</sup> Herring & read to him Ludlow's letter, & have his Answer thereto, that I may Satisfie M<sup>r</sup> Ludlow in w<sup>ch</sup> manner he can defend his charge, being unwilling to remove any man before he is heard.

I shall not neglect the duplicates of my letters, at y<sup>e</sup> same time I do assure you I shall always be ready to incourage my friends & dispell their fears, & do, what we had under consideration before you left me, & have given Catherwood orders ab<sup>t</sup> y<sup>t</sup> in case I do it they may not be Surprized & have told him to let them know I did it affraid of any accident may happen to me the ill treatment my Wife of Course must expect from him, before I do it, it will be very proper to have a letter ready to go by the next Ships to y<sup>e</sup> D. Bedford, Lords of Trade, & President of y<sup>e</sup> Council with reasons for so doing, when I do it I must expect to meet with all y<sup>e</sup> opposition & Quirks y<sup>t</sup> the Law can invent to puzzell things therefore it will require y<sup>t</sup> I shoud have upon y<sup>e</sup> Spot all y<sup>e</sup> Assistance y<sup>t</sup> I may want for as M<sup>r</sup> Alexander is out of Town I have none, I must desire to hear from you as soon as you can about Herring as well as on this Subject, Catherwood is but just now going on board y<sup>t</sup> we are in some hurry Mrs Clinton Miss y<sup>e</sup> Capt<sup>n</sup> & all friends joyn in wishing you & family y<sup>e</sup> Compliments of y<sup>e</sup> Season & to believe me to be with great Sincerity S<sup>r</sup>

Your faithful friend & Serv<sup>t</sup>

G CLINTON.

[Indorsed]

To

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALD<sup>r</sup> COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

*From John Ayscough*

NEW YORK 19<sup>th</sup> Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1748

S<sup>r</sup>

Three old Proverbs, on this occasion occur to my Memory (viz) Nothing venture nothing have, Fortune assists the bold, all is not Gold that glistens, the last of which you will perceive by inspection, Though I should have been glad to have had the pleasure to have congratulated you upon the same quantity of a choicer Metal, as this is the produce of your venture in the Lottery, the dividend amounting to the sum of two and twenty pence half penny, I have sent you even cash, for which I shall give you credit in my thoughts, not that I want any spur to recollect the Memory of so worthy a Person & so good a Friend & Companion. His Ex<sup>ly</sup> Lady & all here join in compliments to Self, Lady & all your fireside with S<sup>r</sup> your sincere Friend

constant well wisher

and very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

P S

J AYSCOUGH

M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood is in a state of expectation, the Ship at the Dock, & wind South East & he praying for a North Wester

To

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

[Indorsed]

To

The Honourable

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

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*From Governor George Clinton*

NEW YORK 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> 1748/9

Sir

I have just received yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> of last Month and shall dispatch the Commiss<sup>r</sup> as soon as possible ac-

ording to your desire, & hope it will turn out for the best, as he was as violent the time he was in the Assembly as any there, however he shall be gratified. I expected you would have said something in answer to y<sup>e</sup> latter part of my letter, hope you are considering what is proper & to guard against y<sup>e</sup> visit especially any Quirks of y<sup>e</sup> Law.

The Ship would have Saild this morning had y<sup>e</sup> wind been fair y<sup>t</sup> I have a good deal to writt still by her, for y<sup>e</sup> Coldness of y<sup>e</sup> weather has prevented me much, & made me a good deal out of order, You will see by y<sup>e</sup> inclosed how they continue their fulsome Stuff, They actuall made M<sup>r</sup> Walers go up to Vote they was so hard pushed for which reason I shall have nothing further to say to him They grow very insolent & perticularly Oliver y<sup>t</sup> I Sent a Message to y<sup>e</sup> Atto<sup>ny</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> y<sup>e</sup> other day y<sup>t</sup> in case he did not prosecute upon my order as far as he could carry it I woud turn him out but I am at a great Loss how to fix it properly that I may be in y<sup>e</sup> right, in order to push things to as great a length as in my power.

We all joyn in wishing you & Family a happy New Year & many of them being very Sincerely

Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> fathfull friend & very  
humble serv<sup>t</sup>

G CLINTON

*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK Jan<sup>ry</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1748/9

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your son was so good as to come & tell me that there's an opportunity going tomorrow morning I set down to Embrace it, that our usual Correspondence may be continued, tho' I don't know that I have any thing at present to Say that will be worth your notice

I returned from Perthamboy hither on Saturday, was



Seven night, I will give you a Short account of things while I was there

the Council had information that only 23 of the many hundred rioters there had accepted of the pardon tendered to them & which Expired the 18<sup>th</sup> of August last, & that the Gov<sup>r</sup> had not made the Least mention of this Contempt in his Speech to the assembly & that the rioters had dureing the time of the pardon & Since continued in their former Courses plundering peoples Estates who did not join them, assiduous in Encreasing their Numbers by getting people to Enter with them by force by fear & by flattery, they thought it their indispensable duty to get proofs of those things which they did & resolved to have demanded a Conference with the assembly upon them, the Gov<sup>r</sup> knowing this requested the Councils delay of that Demand, thinking the first mention of that was most proper from him which the Council Consented to & furnisht him with all the proofs they had taken, whereon the 3<sup>d</sup> of Decem<sup>r</sup> he Spoke to both houses recommending the matter of the riots in the Strangest terms, & Laid the proofs we had taken before the assembly—the Council then demanded a Conference on that matter with the assembly, they in answer referred the Council to their address to the Gov<sup>r</sup>, which contained Suggestions as if the officers & ministers of justice had not done their duty & that if they did their duty & if any defect of the Laws appeared to them at next Sitting they would then Consider of the matter.

The Council in reply formed a message of Some Sheets recapitulating the 9 Several applications to the assembly by Gov<sup>r</sup> Morris president Hamilton & the present Gov<sup>r</sup>—their answer to the first application & their answers of Last winter by which they unanimously then resolved that it was necessary to Strengthen the hands of the Government to Enable the officers thereof to carry the Laws into Execution & what they then did (as in the Last Leaf bound up with the bill in Chancery)—then that but 23 had accepted of the pardon, then the Substance of the Evidences taken Showing behaviour of the

rioters durement the time of the pardon & Since, & the absolute necessity of performing their promises of Last Winter at the present time, for a Delay might put it out of the power of this Legislature hereafter to do it, & insisted on their right to have a Categorical answer to their message Demanding a Conference

the assembly upon this made 4 resolves against the Said Message of the Council, as Directing, takeing away their freedom to think for themselves, assuming upon us to Censure them, & would give no other answer to our messages Demanding Conference

The Council resolved that these resolves amounted to an absolute refusal to Confer & several resolves in consequence thereof, one of which was that it was their indispensable duty to represent to his Majesty the State of the province in relation to the growing rebellion therein, the Council acquainted the Gov<sup>r</sup> with their resolution, & desired to know if he would join in the representation, who answered he would after he had seen the papers wheron the Council unanimously resolved to wait on him at Burlington a week after to Lay the papers before him & I am with him, which he being acquainted with Said he would not join till he had tryed another Session of Assembly on the 16<sup>th</sup> of Decr he prorogued the assembly for two months—The Councillors Staid & prepared their representation to his Majesty Letters to Duke of Bedford & Board of trade & attested Coppies of their Minutes at this Session pointing to the Duke the proofs of the facts in the representation

The Council of proprietors agreed on a petition to his Majesty for his interposition the whole is Sent to M<sup>r</sup> Paris now by the Antilope, to Sollicite the matter vigorously with the assistance & advice of Proprietary Penns & other prop<sup>rs</sup> of Newjersey in London

This coming on the back of the undutyfull behaviour of the assembly here may awaken the ministry to Enquire into the affairs of the plantations, Expecially as peace we hear is now proclaimed, I heartly wish they may not Extend their punishments to the innocent as

well as the guilty, that what we are very apprehensive of & have Endeavoured by all means to avoid ever Since I came home I have been taken up in preparing & pointing out to M<sup>r</sup> Paris the proofs necessary to Support those applications, So that I have not had time to Learn any news of this place for which I must refer you to the news papers & other your Correspondents the Antelope will Sail by the first fair wind the ship friendship about a fortnight hence wishing you & family health & a happy New Year I remain

You most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JA. ALEXANDER.

To DOCTOR COLDEN

*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*

[Copy] .

January 12<sup>th</sup> 1748/9

I have the honour of your Excellency's of the 3<sup>d</sup> instant Coll Hearing will think himself exceedingly obliged to your Excellency & I am perswaded he will be gratefull When he receiv'd the Copy of M<sup>r</sup> Ludlow's letter he said This is very undeservedly from him for I have don him a great many kind offices but in return I receive friendship where I have not deserv'd it I send this letter under his care for he writes that he intends for New York as soon as he hears from me again & I believe will wait on your Excell<sup>y</sup> I think him a sincere convert

Every one who has the least sense of honour must read the scandalous printed libels with indignation & they can hurt none but themselves Certainly the ministry can never bear to see the Kings Authority in the Character of his Governor treated so abusively even tho' they should have no regard for the person of the Governor which I make no doubt in this case is far otherwise But I pleased to find that those persons who so very lately thought they had an universal influence are brought so



near upon a par with their neighbours & this it is no doubt that galls them to the quick for their whole vanity & support is placed in the opinion of this influence which no doubt they have magnified at home & which this instance will shew to be otherwise & therefor ought not to be neglected to be properly represented Since their impetuosity has met with so remarkable a check I fancy their influence will every day lessen if proper measures be pursued for that purpose. I know Walters well enough but I believe it is best for your Excellency to dissemble or say nothing As to matters of Law or Quirks in the law I cannot advise otherwise than this that you would please to send D<sup>r</sup> Ayscough or Capt<sup>n</sup> Clinton to M<sup>r</sup> Alexander to desire him to come to you some day before noon that you want his advice & opinion in a matter of law & I cannot doubt of his waiting on your Excell<sup>y</sup> at which time you may discourse with him on that or any other subject you shall think proper Your Excellency knows that it will be very improper to suffer the paper I left with you to be seen in my hand If there be any use for it Your Excell<sup>y</sup> had best copy it your self & then burn it Coll Hearing talkt of coming up to this part of the Country after his return from New York if he does that will be a good opportunity to send any thing your Excell<sup>y</sup> shall think proper

As to reasons your Excell<sup>y</sup> need give none new but refer to the reasons for suppressing for in one of your letters you said that in case you did—these reasons would be sufficient for that act however if there by any new reasons they may be added & the others briefly recapitulated

M<sup>r</sup> Alexander writes to me that the Council of the Jerseys & the Proprietors have both sent a representation to the King on the state of that Gov<sup>t</sup> which will tally with & give further credit to your Excellency's representations of this Gov<sup>t</sup> May it not do well that the Solicitor they imploy advise with yours of which please to speak to M<sup>r</sup> Alexander.



*From Governor George Clinton*

3<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1748/9

Sir

Coll<sup>l</sup> Hearing came down y<sup>e</sup> beginning of this week from the Commissions which were delivered to him I was not able to See him nor have I been down Stairs this fortnight with a Violent cold I catchd Shifting cloaths on y<sup>e</sup> Pr. Wales birthday, but am much better now, & hope to be able to get down tomorrow or next day,

I received a letter this morning from Coll<sup>l</sup> Johnsons in which he tells me he expects y<sup>e</sup> return of our people sent to Quebeck very soon & want to know Severall things ag<sup>st</sup> they arrive, one article is ab<sup>t</sup> getting the Prisoners from y<sup>e</sup> Indians, I thought y<sup>t</sup> point had been settled, for him to be y<sup>e</sup> person to receive them & to endeavour to get them out of their hands. We must expect to meet with all y<sup>e</sup> rubs they can give with Malice & what we wrott to y<sup>e</sup> Govern<sup>r</sup> of Canada Therefore I think it will be highly necessary for you to come down Immeadiately for Severall very good reasons, besides a ship going to England of Harry Layns by whom I can trust any thing by, I therefore don't Send for M<sup>r</sup> Allexander till you come down, M<sup>r</sup> Livingston is given over y<sup>t</sup> some care should be taken in regard to Succeeding him & is what you have Spoke to me ab<sup>t</sup> & he cant live above a day or too, Coll<sup>l</sup> Moor is very bad, (but y<sup>e</sup> two) is very well Your room is ready & I expect you at furthest by this day fortnight, M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton with her Compliments thinks it is absolutely Necessary for you to come down, In short Oliver has frightened y<sup>t</sup> poor Mayor y<sup>t</sup> I cant get a sight of him that we are only Two & two at present in Council & their wants a little Spiritt to keep up theirs for self Interest I find prevailes more than I coud or ever expected to have Seen.

They have perswaded Rosswilt to give up in favour of Peir Depoystrey some Imagines for a sum but more of y<sup>t</sup> when we meet I have neither Eyes or Head to hold out

to writte more if anything comes by post from Boston I'll make y<sup>e</sup> Doct<sup>r</sup> writte this comes by one I send on purpose, There is Severall Pititions for Lands which cant be read for want of five Councillors & other things which makes your attendance absolutely Necessary, I have just this moment an account brought me y<sup>t</sup> Oliver is going to England let him go I will answer for it y<sup>t</sup> I have done his busines at least amongst y<sup>e</sup> Great men, The post is come in & no letters from Gover<sup>r</sup> Shirley nor have I had any this Two posts tho Expected Answers & receipts for bills y<sup>t</sup> has passed between us & am at a loss to know y<sup>e</sup> meaning, no news we are all very much yours & familys just at supper I must beg you will not fail coming down from  
your very humb<sup>l</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

G CLINTON

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*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*  
[Copy]

COLDENHAM Feb<sup>ry</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1748/9

S<sup>r</sup>

I am much concern'd that the present state of the weather in this season of the year is such that it renders it impracticable for me to shew my obedience to your Excellency's desires. The express that brought yours did not reach my house till yesterday being Wednesday & says he never found such difficulty in travilling with continual danger of his horses tumbling besides this I have been so much in a warm room this winter that I can not expose my self to the cold lodgings which cannot be avoided in travilling together with the cold in the day without the greatest danger of my health at an age when I am become too sensible of the impressions of cold & therefore I must beg your Excellency to excuse my waiting on you till such time as I can do it by water when I can take conveniencies with me to guard against the cold. In the mean time I shall endeavour to give my

opinion on the matters which are the subject of your Excellency's letter in such manner as to make up as far as possible any inconvenience that may attend my absence

I am of opinion that Coll Johnson must take the care of procuring the french prisoners from the Indians for several reasons 1 No one is so capable of doing it 2 no other I suspect will be willing to undertake it 3 If any other should be employ'd for that service & should fail in the execution it may occasion blame in employing another. I think likewise that Coll Johnson can not excuse himself from this Service for as he undertook the management of the Indians during the War it is his Duty to go through with that Service of which the mutual release of prisoners is certainly an apennage Indeed in my opinion he ought to be cautious in refuseing it for while the Government owes him so much money if he should refuse to do any part of the service which he undertook the Government may perhaps think it some reason to stop payment. But I suspect the greatest difficulty arises from the expence which must necessarily attend this service & it is probable that some may think it necessary to call the assembly for that purpose No doubt they who indeavour to make use of the Assembly to imbroid your Excellency's administration may think this a lucky opportunity for this purpose But I am of opinion there is no necessity to force your Excellency to this if matters of greater consequence should make it not expedient Your Excell<sup>y</sup> (if I mistake not) has inform'd the Kings Ministers that you cannot meet the Assembly of this Province till you know their resolutions on the matters you have in dispute with the Assembly for till his Majesty's pleasure shall be known it may be difficult or perhaps impossible for you to behave consistently with your self or the orders you may afterwards receive from the Crown We know not upon what terms the prisoners are to be sent back perhaps it may not be entirely upon the conditions your Excell<sup>y</sup> proposed or perhaps they may not all be reliev'd from the Indians in both which cases your Excell<sup>y</sup> is at liberty & may have



good reason to delay the entire release of prisoners on your side. Suppose the terms your Excell<sup>y</sup> proposed to the Governor of Canada are entirely complied with your Excell<sup>y</sup> must be allow'd some time after you know of his compliance to treat with the Indians & procure the release of the french prisoners & in case you should fail in the Execution this can but very little affect the affairs of this Government after all our prisoners shall be released from Canada (without which you are under no obligation) It can only occasion a complaint from the Governor of Canada & which your Excellency can much more easily answer at home than you can surmount the inconveniencies or uneasinesses to your self which may happen by meeting the Assembly before his Majesty's pleasure be known on the matters in dispute. Several expedients may likewise be thought of to make matters easy in the affair of the prisoners. The Indians may be tried how far they will be satisfied with promises of future rewards or other like methods. I hear M<sup>r</sup> Lydius is come to New York he may be sent back to engage the Relations of those who have been prisoners in Canada to advance money for the release of the French who are in the hands of our Indians as being a condition on which their relations are to be released & that they ought to trust the assembly for the repayment of this money being a publick debt. In this Col Johnson to assist or be the principal actor. If this be resolv'd on M<sup>r</sup> Lydius must keep it entirely secret at New York & disclose only to those interested in it otherwise they who endeavour to embroyl affairs will certainly defeat it by diswading the relations from contributing towards the expence. In order to gain time your Excell<sup>y</sup> may give directions that any French that come from Canada be not suffer'd to come to New York till your Excell<sup>y</sup> know their errand & shall give directions for that purpose.

As to what your Excellency may think necessary to write to England at this time I shall inclose a sketch of my thoughts thereon in the words which I think may be proper to be used but with submission however to what



alterations or additions or abridgements which your Excell<sup>y</sup> shall think proper On this occasion I must take the liberty again to put your Excell<sup>y</sup> in mind not to direct your letters to M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood only least he should mis-carry nor do I think it prudent to put the whole of your affairs in the power of one man to suppress what he pleases And please again to direct him to write by all opportunities & that what ever opinion or advice he gives your Excell<sup>y</sup> that he name the person on whose Authority he gives it Your Excell<sup>y</sup> will see from the inclosed Sketch that there is a brief recapitulation of the substance of what has been formerly said this is done with design to keep things in memory & from a belief that great men do not readily turn to former papers if reference were made to them & different expressions of the same thing may sometimes be of use.

I am exceedingly obliged to your Excell<sup>y</sup> for what you mention of M<sup>r</sup> Livingstone's death It convinces me what reason I have to go on cheerfully in your Excellency's service since you remember a thing for my advantage tho so long since it was spoke of I hope your Excell<sup>y</sup> shall never have reason to thing me ungratefull. This encourages me to beg the favour of your appointing my son John Clerk of the Peace & of the common Pleas for the City & County of Albany in the place of Phil Livingstone deceased with power to make a Deputy & to grant the Commission during good behaviour as all the Commissions of Clerks have of late been & which an Act of Parl<sup>t</sup> requires should be so This perhaps is the only thing that can be put out of the power of the Ennemies which I have procured by assisting your Excell<sup>y</sup> to reverse & it will be a singular obligation to me as thereby I shall be enabled in some measure to provide for one child independently of your Excellency's & my ennemies I design however that so long as he shall enjoy the office of Store Keeper the Profits of the other office shall be for my use of which I shall take proper care As this Commission was formerly annexed to the Secretary's office for Indian affairs & granted from home it may be necessary to

acquaint the Secretary of State & Mr Pelham by letter in a few lines on no other subject with your having apointed One for the office of Clerk of the Peace & Common pleas during good behaviour least any should apply privately for that office at home & to desire them likewise not to apoint any to the office for secretary to Indian affairs till you shall have time to inform them more particularly of some matters relating to that office & of consequence to his Majesty's service This apointing from home likewise shews the use of Granting the office of Clerk dureing good behaviour to prevent underhand dealing The common affairs of justice makes it necessary for your Excell<sup>y</sup> to come soon to some resolution as to this office because it might not to remain long vacant & Mr Livingston's Deputy can not act after his Death

My Wife joins with me in begging your Excellency to make our complements to your Lady & hopes she will excuse her in not consenting to my travilling by land at this time since both she & my children are perswaded it cannot be don without evident danger of my health or life.

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*Cadwallader Colden to Linnaeus*

[Copy]

COLDENHAM in the Province of New York

February 9<sup>th</sup> 1748/9

S<sup>r</sup>

You have don me so much honour by your two letters One of the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 1747 the other without date by Mr Kalm that I cannot otherwise account for it than by your willingness to incourage every attempt to promote knowledge for I am so sensible of my want of Skill in the Botanical Science that I can no way deserve the praises you are pleas'd to bestow on the litle performances I have made When I came into this part of the world near forty

years since I understood only the Rudiments of Botany & I found so much difficulty in applying it to the many unknown plants that I met with every where that I was quite discouraged & laid aside all attempts in that way near 30 years till I casually met with your Books which gave me such new lights that I resolv'd again to try what could be don with your assistance If then I have been able to do any thing worth your notice it is intirely owing to the excellency of your method However I still find my self at a loss in a fundamental point in Botany what it is that certainly distinguishes one Genus from another of the same Class so as not to be in danger of confounding plants of different Genera by reducing them into one or by making different Genera of such as are really one This difficulty I find puzzles sometimes the Masters of the Art by the Disagreements in Judgement on that head which appears among them I mentioned this to Gronovius but I have not heard from him since I am perswaded that if this difficulty can be removed by any method it may by yours

It is observ'd that animals of different Genera seldom copulate unless they be of the next adjoining Genus in the chain of nature That tho these produce young by their copulation the breed of these are never capable of continueing their species So it is observ'd of the Mule proceeding from an Ass & horse We observe the same of our wild Geese & houshold Geese They by Copulation produce young but these never continue their species any farther And yet we have several of the species of Houshold geese which to all appearances differ as much or more from each other than some of them do from the wild geese It is likewise certain that throughout the whole Genera of both Animals & Vegetables the distinction of the male & female organs is every where observ'd & that this distinction is necessary for the propagation of the kind but what it is in the one & the other that makes it necessary they should be distinct so that the species cannot be produced by one alone I know not nor do I find that any Philosopher has attempted to explain it This



which adapts the female of one species to the male of the other is not meerely from the sise shape or number of their respective organs as is plain in the case of the wild & Tame Geese & of the Horse and Ass but from something else likewise which I know not What I would infer from this is that a perfect similitude in the figure number &c of the Organs of Generation are not a certain Characteristic of their being of the same Genus but that something else must be frequently added to distinguish the Genera You have on your Principles made the Aple & Pear of the same Genus & yet I am perswaded they are of different because there is something so different in the nature of the Pear & the Aple that a Stock of the one is not proper for the cyon of the other in grafting or inoculation Whereas the stocks of the same Genus tho of different species equally serve for the cyons of any other species as those of the same species do. We observe the same in different species of animals the males of any species equally serve the females of the other

I did not intend to say that the Zea is not a native of America if you have seen all that I have wrote to Gronovius on this head you'l evidently perceive that my intention was otherwise however I have expressed myself to occasion that mistake: On the contrary We have many different species of it which so far as I can learn are not in Europe or Asia From what I have observed of this Plant I think it necessary to take in the magnitude of the plant & the time of produceing the seed in full ripeness as a distinction of the different species of this Genus for after the most careful examination I can discover nothing else to distinguish them & yet they are certainly distinct species Give me leave on this occasion to make one observation tho' it be a very obvious one There are some plants & those the most necessary for humane life which grow no where but when sown by mens hands & in cultivated lands Such as our Indian Corn or Zea wheat Barley Rice &c That they never were the spontaneous produce of the Earth without the art & labour of man otherwise they must be somewhere



found growing spontaneously So likewise the household Animals Dogs Cats Dunghill Fowls &c seem to have been concomitants to man from the beginning & that they cannot live without him For the species at least & I believe I may venture to say that the Genera of Household Animals are no where wild but have from the beginning been dependents on man Man therefor has a natural right over them whereas we seem to be in a state of War with the other animals

As I had but little Skill in Botany when I began first to examine the plants of this Country according to your method it is no wonder that I fell into many mistakes most part of them. I afterwards discover'd by my self & sent proper corrections to Gronovius the most material of which I shall copy for your use I likewise sent several dry'd plants to him but they had the misfortune to be taken by the French I had directed the packet in case of Capture to be deliver'd to Mess<sup>rs</sup> du Jardin royal a paris So that perhaps you may still hear of them

I have been obliged for near three years past to lay aside all my Botanical amusements the publick affairs of this Government having obliged me to be during the summer season on the Frontiers of this Government where we could not go out of the Fortified places during the cruel & barbarous War with the French Indians without danger of being surprised by the Sculking ennemy Indians

I hope now that we have peace it may be in my power to make some return to the obligations you have laid on me by sending some dry'd plants as you desire with such descriptions as I can make of them I cannot hope for any great reputation from what I do of this kind but if you think that my observations or descriptions can be of any use to the publick you have my leave to make use of them in what ever manner you shall think proper.

I receiv'd the Dissertation you sent by M<sup>r</sup> Sandin & likewise your Fauna Swevica & Flora Zeilanica from M<sup>r</sup> Kalm They are not only very acceptable as I could not otherwise have procured them in this Country they

shall remain with me as tokens of your esteem for me & which I hope my Children will value after I am gon

M<sup>r</sup> Kalm arived so late last fall in Pensylvania that the Season of the year did not permit him to proceed in his intended Voyage He tells me that he designs for Canada next spring I hope to see him at my house in his way thither & to have the pleasure of his conversation for some days. It will give me pleasure if I can be of use to him in makeing his voyage more convenient or safe for him If you'l please to continue your favours of writing to me M<sup>r</sup> Collinson of London with whom you Correspond will take care of your letters to transmit them to me Or if they be sent to Pensylvania & directed to the care of M<sup>r</sup> Benjamin Franklen Post Master in Philadelphia they will come to my hands God preserve you in health for the benefite of mankind. Before I conclude I must inform you that the title of Summus Prefectus no way belongs to me I know not what has led you into this mistake I am with great respect

Dear S<sup>r</sup>

Your most obedient

humble Servant

CADWALLADER COLDEN

Celeberrimo CAROLO  
LINNÆO Archiatro  
Regis Sueviae.

---

*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE 18 Feby 1748/9

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency being much indisposed, orders me to acquaint you that M<sup>r</sup> De Lignerice & 23 others officers & attendants are come down w<sup>th</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Stoddard & only two of our Prizoners Viz—& Abeel whose Brother they have detained as a Hostage for him.

The Gov<sup>t</sup> of Canada is still inflexible, & has sent this Embassy to treat for Exchange of Prisoners. On the

News of the French men coming down, some malicious persons made it their business to insinuate, that not one farthing would be paid by the Assembly, so that I was forced to engage for His Excellency for the payment

By this you will observe the absolute necessity of your advice & assistance at this Critical Juncture, for in short they can not make a Council (Coll Moore & y<sup>e</sup> Mayor being both ill), and consequently all business it at a Stand, & must remain in that state till we have th pleasure of your good Company

Col<sup>l</sup> Johnson wrote his Excellency word <sup>th</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Stoddard that a Number of Sachems were coming down to Mount Johnson, but could not tell what was y<sup>e</sup> occasion, & thinking it is to enquire the purport of this Embassy. I feer they will not be perswaded to do their Business at Coll Johnsons but come forward if so it will be most materially necessary for you to attend as soon as possible for I do assure you I believe you was never more wanted, for I have reasons to think the Faction are determined to obstruct all his measures & make him uneasy in every-thing they can

The Sleigh with Dinner is gone in & I undressed so that I have only the pleasure to congratulate you on your Son John's being appointed Clerk of the City & County & Common pleas for Albany during pleasure with power to appoint a Deputy & am in one word your most obedient humble Serv<sup>t</sup> & sincere Friend

J AYSCOUGH

P S Compliments to Capt Clinton  
& all the good Family

*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*

[Copy]

COLDENHAM Feb<sup>ry</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1748/9

I was very agreeably surprised with the sight of Capt<sup>n</sup> Clinton this day sevensight which the season of the year



had taken all hopes from me but if I had known of his coming I must have been in pain on account of the ice at this season of the year when one day it bears horses & the next a man on foot cannot pass We have had the last week so much cold weather that I hope nothing of thaw can prevent his safe return to New York especially as he is not to pass Hudson's River on the ice The cold is indeed so severe that I cannot be one hour in it much less to bear it a whole day & believe Capt<sup>n</sup> Clinton will satisfy your Excellency that it is not practicable for me to travel by land. I shall wait on your Excellency as soon as the season will permit me to do it by Water which I hope now by the weather's beginning to change may be in a fortnight at furthest I hope there is nothing at this time to give your Excellency uneasiness in the administration When I wrote by the express I had receiv'd an opinion that the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada had sent back our prisoners in which case I suspected your Excell<sup>y</sup> might be under difficulty in recovering the French Prisoners from our Indians But I am since inform'd that it is otherwise that the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada detains our Prisoners At present matters are only in Negotiation in which I think you may trust M<sup>r</sup> Rutherford as he is no way engaged in the Faction or in the designs to distress your Excellency but otherwise as I know no particulars I can only make general observations 1 By the Treaty of Peace no doubt the prisoners on both sides are released & the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada's refusing to release our prisoners & detaining them in his hands may give a just excuse for your Excellency's delay in taking the French prisoners out of the hands of the Indians especially as he keep our Indians in close confinement That the Policy of the French is to create a Jealousy between us & the Six Nations & for that purpose will endeavour by all means to carry them to Canada to treat for the release of their prisoners This has been the constant practise of the French in Canada at y<sup>e</sup> end of every war 2 In order to defeat these designs of the French which evidently affect the Interest of Great Brittain every reasonable thing



must be done to please the six Nations & to prevent their going to Canada 3 Your Excellency in all publick treaties will consider the Interest of the Nation in general more than of this Province in particular & much more than the Sollicitations of private persons & litle clamours which may be made in that account I am told that when Oliver was at Esopus he gave out that the Assembly was to be disolv'd & sollicitated the Election of particular persons He brought up all the songs & faction papers with him read them in the tavern & talked as he used to do but so far as I can learn he cannot value himself on any success he has had in this part of the Province I know not what has put the apprehensions of a Dissolution into their heads unless they find (as is given out) that their interest lessens in the City of New York If there were reason to hope that one man in the city could be removed & another in Queens County I would hold up both hands for a Dissolution Nay if we were sure of hearty struggle in the City tho nothing should be carried I should not be displeased with it because this would shew that the minds of the people are not so generally affected in the manner they give out. & the opposition to the faction would probably afterwards increase

I must again thank your Excellency for your kind remembrance of me on the occasion of M<sup>r</sup> Livingston's Death repeated to me by your son It gives me the strongest proof of your Excellency's Friendship & thereby lays the strongest obligation on me as well as it gives me satisfaction in my past behaviour & incouragement to proceed in my indeavours to serve your Excell<sup>y</sup> I wrote by the express of all that I think can be don properly at this time I then mention'd to your Excell<sup>y</sup> that it may be necessary to come to some resolution speedily as to the office of Clerk because all the promises in that County I suspect must stop on the Death of the Clerk because till another is apointed & I think it no way adviseable for me to write to any of my friends on this subject till I know your Excellency's final resolutions If your Excellency resolve in favour of my son please to let him know

it & then he will advise with Mr Nicholls & Mr Alexander in pursuance of the directions I have given him.

Mr Hausbrook came to my house the other day & gave me the inclosed list for Judges & Justices in this County I have no objection to any person named & I believe his past behaviour will incline your Excell<sup>y</sup> to oblige him.

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*From Peter Collinson*

Feby 24 1748

It gave mee pleasure to hear from my Dear fr<sup>d</sup> C: Colden by his favour of F<sup>br</sup>: 17: 1748

As yet no remittances has been made when they come to my hands I shall keep them for your order

I am glad Mr Kalm has been with you you'l find Him an indefatigable Ingenious Man pray tell Him I do not take kindly his not giving mee a Line

I shall be glad of your Continueing Gover<sup>r</sup> Clintons assistant may Contribute to Yours & your Familys advantages—be sure make Hay while the Sun Shines—for another King may Rise up that knew not Joseph

I find of the Tenn Indian Historys I have sent you Six by Sundry Conveyances So if you have had but Two some must have miscarried One is Left w<sup>ch</sup> I Intended to Send now but forgot It 3 I disposed off here one to myself one to Doc<sup>r</sup> Mitchell & 1 to Doc Gronovius

Your Sons bill is accepted if He will Draw on Mr Guerin from Time to Time I will gett it received from Him & repay it to his order Your Engaging anew in publick affairs will prevent your Botanic Inquiries So don't trouble your self about mee any Seeds of Wild Specious plants that grows round the neighbourhood of Coldenham are Sufficient for mee or any Tree or flowering Shrub that Strikes your own Fancy either from the Beauty of its Flower or the prettyness of its Fruit

I am greatly obliged to you for the Time you could Spare to Informe mee of the mischevious effects of your Locust which is a Species of Insect distinguish'd under the Name Cicada—but ours is a Real Grasshopper but of a very Large size the accounts publish'd of their numbers & decorations is wonderfull

I have more to say but our busie Time prevents mee adding further but That I am y<sup>r</sup> Sincere & affectionate fr<sup>d</sup>

P COLLINSON

LOND Feby 24: 1748/9

P S Heethertoo Wee have had the Mildest Winter Less Frost & snow then has been remembered in the Memory of Man—but much Wind & Rain which our poor neighbours the Russians &c never felt a Severer, numbers being frozen to Death what is very singular that none of the Skirts of that Severe Weather should reach us—for at that very time here it was So Warm I could not beer to Gett neer the Fire

I have sent to our Worthy fr<sup>d</sup> J Alexander Doc Knight Treatise on attraction & Repulsion when he has perused It I have desired Him to Send you the perusal, it is a Curious piece

March 7<sup>th</sup> no news from Leghorn

[Indorsed]

For

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
New York

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*From John Ayscough*

3<sup>d</sup> March 1748/9

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency has rec'd your Answer & the return of the Express, & is very much concerned to find by it, that you are so much indisposed, but hopes this will find you perfectly recovered, it was a great dissapointment to him, that you could not have taken the oppertunity of the River being open to have come down. For as I

wrote you before, all business is at a Stand for want of you. Mr De Ligneices Party have been now here sixteen days, (& no progress made, or even begun yet, as to the Embassy he is come upon,) at a great expence to somebody, where it will fall I can not determine; and you may naturally suppose the malicious grumbling, carefully propagated by the designing Faction, who will loose no opportunity to calumniate his Excellency's measures. Therefore he orders me to press you in the strongest terms I can possibly do it, that if your health will permit (which I hope in God it will) that you would immediately take the very first offer to embark for New York; for I must beg leave to repeat it to you, that I am certain you were never more wanted, than at this critical conjuncture, for which reason, I earnestly beg you for God's sake not to fail, his Excellency will be very uneasy till he sees you as shall

S<sup>r</sup>

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

J AYSCOUGH

P S

Last Tuesday his Exc<sup>ly</sup>  
prorogued the Assembly till  
2<sup>d</sup> Tuesday in April by  
Proclamation.

[Indorsed]

On His Majesty's Service

To

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

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*From Peter Collinson*

My Dear Fr<sup>d</sup>—on the other side I send you a Coppy of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Jackson, Hart & Rutherfords Letter that you may see what they write but I admire they sent no account of sales <sup>tho</sup> haps they have done it another way to you



Since the above I have reced a Letter from T: Earle & T: Hodgson with a bill for 42 Dollars 2 Sols 6 deniers at 50 $\frac{1}{2}$  on John Barkitt & Son—this & 109 Dollars at 50 $\frac{5}{8}$  on George Fitzgerald are both accepted & Carried to your account

I have also here Enclosed Earle & Hodgsons Letter for y<sup>r</sup> perusal—but they have not sent an account of Sales neither

I am much Engaged So you'l Excuse adding Further but that I am much

Y<sup>r</sup> P COLLINSON

LOND

Aprill 5<sup>th</sup> 1749

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

New York

Cap WADDEL

---

*From Messrs. Jackson, Hart & Rutherford to  
Peter Collinson*

LEGHORN the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1749

M<sup>r</sup> Peter Collinson

Sir

Cap<sup>t</sup> Stephen Richard of the Jamima Brigantine delivered us 15 Hogsheads, 3 Tierces & 1 Barrel of Sugar, which he said belong'd to Alexander Colden Esq<sup>r</sup> & Com<sup>o</sup> of new York, & he having sold them neat proceed came to 438" 2" 3" so he ordered us to remit  $\frac{3}{4}$  thereof less our Charges, for Acc<sup>t</sup> of said Gentleman to M<sup>r</sup> Mico. & the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  to you for Acc<sup>t</sup> Cadwallader Colden Esq<sup>r</sup> wherefore in compliance therewith having deducted from said  $\frac{1}{4}$  our usual Commission on the bill at 1-3  $\text{p}$  C<sup>t</sup> 1-3  $\text{p}$  Mills for Broke. & a small Matter for Postage of Letters, we now remit you the Ballance in a Bill for 109 Dollars drawn by Henry Scroope on George Fitzgerald Exchange 50 $\frac{5}{8}$  at Usance pay to your

Order, wherewith you will be pleas'd to act the needful & hold it at the Disposal of said Gentleman

We shall be proud to obey any of y<sup>e</sup> Comm<sup>ds</sup> at this Place being with much Truth & Respect

Your most obedient humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JACKSON, HART & RUTHERFURD

LEGHORN March 7<sup>th</sup> 1749

£s \$109 at 50<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> Sterling

at Usance pay this our first Exchange to M<sup>r</sup> P Collinson or order one hundred and nine Dollars at fifty Pence two Eights st Value, exchange with Mes<sup>r</sup> Jackson, Hart & Rutherford as <sup>th</sup> advice <sup>th</sup> H Scroope & Com

To  
M<sup>r</sup> GEORGE FITZGERALD  
Mercer

*From Lewis Evans*

My very worthy Friend

My Map is finisht at last, & now waits upon you for your Amendment, which if you could favour me with by the first Opportunity w<sup>d</sup> oblige me much; for I wait now but for Mr Alexander's & your Revisal, before I proceed to print them off, & get them ready for Publication.

I sh<sup>d</sup> be glad you would minute down some more Variations; how far the Settlements extend back, because I intend to colour so far; Addition of Towns, noted Houses, Roads & intermediate Distances of Places &c. & these I w<sup>d</sup> get incerted on the Plate before Printing off. Please to mark them with red Ink if you have any by you.

There come also some Specimens with Receipts to the Amount of 70 Pieces of Eight, that you may <sup>th</sup>haps prevail on Somebody your Way to dispose of.

This has happened unluckily y<sup>t</sup> I had ne'er a Copy

to Send you but this, that has been so much handled & dirty'd,

I am Sir with greatest Respects to y<sup>r</sup> Self and Family, of whose Welfare I always rejoyce to hear.

Y<sup>r</sup> most obliged  
humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
LEWIS EVANS

Philad<sup>a</sup>

March 13 1748/9

[Indorsed]

To  
The honble CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
at Coldenham.

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*Affidavit of John Colden*

Copy

WHEREAS our now most Gracious Sovereign Lord George the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France, and Ireland King Defender of the faith &c: By his Commission under the Great Seal of the Province of New York bearing date the 23<sup>d</sup> day of February now last part Did of his Especiall Grace Certain knowledge & Meer Motion Give Grant Ratifie and Confirm unto John Colden Gent the Office or place of Town Clerk, Clerk of the Peace & Clerk of the Common Pleas in the City & County of Albany in the Province of New York To Hold the Same office in place of Town Clerk Clerk of the Peace & Clerk of the Common Pleas with all fees profitts &c: which to the s<sup>d</sup> offices or Places or either of them do or ought to belong for & during so long time as he the s<sup>d</sup> J C shall behave himself well

NOW KNOW all men by these Presents That the Said John Colden doth hereby acknowledge and Declare That the Said office or place of Town Clerk, Clerk of the Peace & Clerk of the Common Pleas was Granted to him by his Said Majesty in Trust to and for the Sole Benefitt and advantage of Cadwallader Colden Esq for and During the Term of his Naturall life and Immediately from and

after his Death than to and for his own Benefitt & Advantage So long as he shall Continue in the Same not so Declared in the said commission And Therefore the Said John Colden Doth hereby for himself his Executors & Administrators Covenant promise Grant and Agree to and with the Said Cadwallader Colden Esq his Executors Administrators & Assigns in Manner following that is to Say That he the Said John Colden Shall and will from time to time and at all times hereafter During the life of the Said Cadwallader Colden Esq when he shall be thereunto Required by the Said Cadwallader Colden Account with and pay to the said Cadwallad<sup>r</sup> Colden his Ex<sup>rs</sup> &c all and Every the Neat and Clear profitts which Shall arise from the Said Office or place of Town Clerk Clerk of the Peace & Clerk of the Common Pleas in the County & City of Albany afores<sup>d</sup> during the life of the Said Cadwallader Colden and shall not nor will not do Committ or Omitt any Act Matter or thing whatsoever whereby he Shall forfeit the Said office

In WITNESS whereof the s<sup>d</sup> J C hath hereunto set his hand & Seal the twenty seventh day of march in the 22<sup>d</sup> y<sup>r</sup> of his Majesty's reign & in the y<sup>r</sup> of our Lord 1749

Seald & deliver'd  
in the presence of

R NICHOLLS

J BURGESS

---

*From John Ayscough*

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

I have just time to tell you that Bryant arrived Sunday last & M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood sends us the agreeable News, that all goes flowingly on: C J's Commission to be returned, D H's Suspension approved, Assembly to be re-proved & dissolved, the New Ministry viz D Bedford D Dorset L<sup>d</sup> Halifax &c presenting a Memorial to his Majesty in favour of His Excellency, which we are to expect <sup>th</sup> next Ship: S<sup>r</sup>P. W: disgusted, & coming over in a



private Character, throw'd up his Commission as Admiral, Governour not returned yet from L Island, Proclamation of Peace come, Miss Clinton ran away & married to Roddam 24<sup>th</sup> Ap<sup>l</sup>

excuse hast from S<sup>r</sup>

your very humble Sev<sup>t</sup>

J AYSCOUGH

[Indorsed]

To

The Honourable

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

at

Coldenham

*From John Colden to Peter Collinson*

[Copy]

N Y May 23<sup>d</sup> 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

I have been favoured with yours of Feb<sup>ry</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> & am much obliged to you for your kindness in getting my Bill accepted & allowing me to continue giving you that trouble notwithstanding y<sup>r</sup> variety of business. As there is no other person in London that I can so freely give the trouble to I hope you will excuse it I now inclose a Bill of exchange for £ 21-33-0 st the half year's Sallary from Nov<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> May which I beg you will likewise keep for me till you receive directions either from my father or me. If in any thing I could serve you in this part of the world it would be a particular pleasure to

S<sup>r</sup>

Y<sup>r</sup> Oblidged

Most H<sup>bl</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

J COLDEN

Mr COLLINSON

p<sup>r</sup> Capt GRIFFITHS

Dupl: p<sup>r</sup>

*From John Colden to Maynard Guerrin*

[Copy]

N Y May 23 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

In Nov<sup>r</sup> last I drew a Bill for the first quarter of my Sallary as Storekeeper to the Garrison of New York which

M<sup>r</sup> Collinson informs me was accepted the 11<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>ry</sup>  
I now draw on you a Bill for £ 21-11-0 st the half years  
Sallary after deductions from the 1<sup>st</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> last to the  
1<sup>st</sup> of May ins<sup>t</sup> payable in like manner to M<sup>r</sup> Collinson  
which I hope you will likewise honour

I am S<sup>r</sup>  
Y<sup>r</sup> &c  
J<sup>n</sup> COLDEN

To MAYNARD GUERRIN Esq

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*Bill of Exchange*

NEW YORK May 23<sup>d</sup> 1749

Excha for £ 21: 11: 0 Sterling

Sir

At thirty days Sight pay this my third Bill of ex-  
change (my first & Second of the same Tenour & Date  
not being paid) to M<sup>r</sup> Peter Collinson Merch<sup>t</sup> in Lon-  
don or Order & place the Same to my account as p<sup>r</sup> ad-  
vice from

Your humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
JOHN COLDEN

To  
MAYNARD GUERIN Esq  
Agent to the Independent  
Companies Posted at New York

---

*From John Colden to Peter Collinson*

[Copy]

NEW YORK May 23 1749

Sir

I have been favoured with yours of Feb<sup>ry</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> & am  
much obliged to you for your kindness in getting my Bill  
accepted & allowing me to continue giving you that  
trouble

*From John Colden*

[Copy of part of a letter to my father]

June 3<sup>d</sup> 1749

Mr C—ns was with me yesterday in order to see by the Min. of C<sup>rt</sup> what was due to Mr Z in an action concluded before I came here & I found he would not allow him several things allowed by the Ord: In particular 3/ for a Declar<sup>n</sup> I took that opper<sup>ty</sup> of telling him that as I conceived that that & other fees w<sup>ch</sup> he w<sup>d</sup> not allow was really the Clerks due, I would insist upon it whenever I was p<sup>d</sup> my fees in any action commenced in my time, He c<sup>d</sup> not deny but that it was every where usual & had been customary here but that they used to allow part of it to the Attorneys but that as the late Cl. had refused to do it & as I would not promise to do it he would not pay it. But talked a good deal of the late Cl. extortions & threatened what he would do in the like case for the future; I told him I would not give him an oppo<sup>ty</sup> to lay hold of me as an Extortioner for y<sup>t</sup> I w<sup>d</sup> never ask more than the ord<sup>ce</sup> allowd me but w<sup>t</sup> it did allow me I would insist upon & would not be frightened out of it Now S<sup>r</sup> as I am sure we shall never agree & am persuaded he will refuse to pay me my due I beg you will please to instruct me how to manage with him whether after the Court to take what I can get of him & find some means to get the rest afterwards or to refuse any part till I have all my due This of the Clerks being p<sup>d</sup> for the Decld Plea & is only in the C<sup>t</sup> of Common Pleas so that we can have no example of it at New York, but doubtless the Lawyers there from perusing the Ord<sup>ce</sup> can judge w<sup>t</sup> is due in y<sup>t</sup> C<sup>t</sup> as well as in others That Bill of L—s (w<sup>ch</sup> I mention) had been taxed, but he would not regard it, & has from £ 2-8-0 br<sup>t</sup> it to £ 1-4-0 I am not concerned ab<sup>t</sup> that any further than to be on my guard how to prevent his serving me the Same L talked of sueing him I wish he would, or that something could be don to bring down his haughtiness.

*Cadwallader Colden to Joseph Davidson*  
[Copy Unaddressed and Undated]

[July 1749?]

S<sup>r</sup>

I did not receive Mr Lithgow's letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> of August under which I had the favour of yours without date till about 3 weeks since I have been so much engaged in Business since I receiv'd that letter that it was impossible for me to do any thing in his affair but you may let him know from me that as soon as the publick affairs will permit me I shall think seriously of his affairs & do what I can for him but I am affray'd all that can be don will be but of small value. I never receiv'd your former letter which you mention I have thoughts of printing a much larger treatise on the subject that was printed at New York which your pleased to mention favourably I propose to make that piece plainer & to extend it to other parts of natural Philosophy If I should send over the whole in manuscript & it should miscarry it would give me a great deal of trouble to have another copy made out I propose to send it in parcels to you & likewise to have it printed in parcels as I see frequently don As it is on a subject that common readers are not fond of I incline to have it printed at my own charge if you will undertake to manage & dispose of of it for me Please to inform me what the Charge of printing a 1000 copies with a good letter & on good paper in Quarto may amount to by the sheet & how the copy may be preserv'd from pirates & whether you be willing to sell it for me & on what conditions Or whether you be willing to print it at your own charge with allowance to me & what allowance you are willing to make

I send for a few books at this time to M<sup>r</sup> Peter Collinson a noted Mercer at the red Lyon in Graceus Street & have advised him to take them from you Please to let me hear from you by the first opportunity I am much hurried upon this ships going away & tho' I cannot



desire to be inform'd particularly enough as to the printing &c I must beg of you to answer me as particularly as you can

My complements to your Brother I am

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*Cadwallader Colden to Peter Collinson*  
[Copy]

To Mr Collinson July 7<sup>th</sup> 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

I believe I have every letter which you have been so kind to write to me but I am at this time so much hurried in the publick affairs that I must beg your excuse in not answering yours in the manner you have so much reason to expect from me

I have at last receiv'd a very obliging letter from D<sup>r</sup> Mitchel wherein he tells me that he wrote largely to me several times but as none of these letters have come to my hand I believe they have been intercepted by some villainous people here who have don so with several other letters directed to me & therefore I must desire of you to put letters directed to me into one of M<sup>r</sup> Alexanders boxes with his goods as you did the letter from my nephew I have wrote largely to D<sup>r</sup> Mitchel by this conveyance & as few can be so well inform'd of the publick actions in this Province since the commencement of the War as I am & others endeavour what they can to misrepresent them I have given him a particular acct of them The publick affairs in this Province begin to put on a very different & better aspect than they formerly had I have likewise a good deal of Pleasure in that worthy Gent<sup>n</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Shirley his going to England about this time to whom I am well known & who I perswade my self is sincerely my friend for we have been several times together on publick business I have your account of the remittances made to you from Leghorn this has been a very unlucky voyage to all concern'd in it We

have each of us lost above one half It was owing to the ships sailing before we knew of the cessation of arms

My son John gives you the trouble of another Bill of Exchange & I must desire of you to send to me for him the books of which the list is inclosed & that if it be convenient for you You may take them from Mr Joseph Davidson at the Angel in the Poultry with whom I have some correspondence My house in the Country has been two or three times in Danger from fire I am told of a chamber fire Engine with long leather pipes & which is likewise convenient for Watering of Gardens & which costs about five pounds if such an engine be found by experience to answer the ends proposed by it You will oblige me by ordering one to be bought for me with a paper of directions for the Use of it

We have had in this Province & in New England a greater Drouth this summer then ever was known by which all the Clover is lost Please to order 200 lb weight of the best red clover seed to be sent by the ships which return before Winter I am ashamed of giving you so much but you are so kind & good that I presume upon your pardon Please if my son have money enough in your hands to place them to his account that you may not have the trouble of placeing any of them to two accounts if he have not place what is wanting to mine By my being so much from home I am affray'd I cannot send seeds as you desire but I shall do what I can I find an 18<sup>d</sup> book advertised in the English papers under the title of Siris Theologica Metaphysica where I have the honour to be named in the title page in Company that I am exceedingly pleas'd with & our several opinions refuted I am very desirous to see it I am &c

Cook's Institutes 4 vol folio

Lilly's Practical Register 2 vol. folio

Lilly's Conveyancer folio

Instructor Clericalis 6 vol Octavo It is said to be now all in English if so send it

Office of Clerk of the Peace

Office of Clerk of the Assize

Jacob's Law Dictionary  
 Quinctiliani Institutiones Oratoris <sup>¶</sup> Rollen  
 Boyers French & English Dictionary  
 Siris Theologica Meta physica  
 Philosophia Britannica by Martin

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*Drafts of the Messages of Governor George Clinton (in the handwriting of Cadwallader Colden) to the General Assembly of New York, July 7, 17, and 20, 1749. These messages are omitted here for the reason that they are printed in "Journal of the General Assembly of New York," Volume II, pages 262, 268, and 269-270.*

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*Copy of the Complaint The King vs. Oliver De Lancey  
 July, 1749*

City & County }  
 of New York } ss.

BE IT REMBRED That Richard Bradley Esq<sup>r</sup> Attourney General of our Lord the King for the Province of New York, who for the same our Lord the King, in this part, prosecutes in his proper Person comes into the Court of our Said Lord the King, before the King himself at New York on the      day of      in this Term, And for the same Lord the King gives this Court here to understand & be informed, That Oliver De Lancey late of the City of New York Merchant, being a Man of an unquiet, turbulent, factious and Seditious Disposition and Behaviour, and a wicked prophane Swearer by the Sacred name of God, and a malicious Reviler and Slanderer of Persons of good and honest Conversation, and contriving, practising, and falsely maliciously, seditiously and most wickedly intending, the Peace & common Tranquility of this Province to disquiet, molest and disturb, and Sedition, hatred & discord between our S<sup>d</sup> Lord the



King and his Subjects, & between the Subjects of our S<sup>d</sup> Lord the King among themselves within this Province to excite, promote and procure, & the Authority of our Said Lord the King & his Government, within this Province into the greatest hatred, detestation, dislike & contempt, as far as in him lay to bring. He the S<sup>d</sup> Oliver De Lancey on the twenty third Day of June in the Twenty third Year of the Reign of the King that now is, at the City of New York, at the Dock ward of the same City in the presence & hearing of divers Liege Subjects of our S<sup>d</sup> Lord the King, then & there present, having discourse of & concerning his Excellency, The Honourable George Clinton Captain General, and Governour in Chief of the Province of New York, & the Territories thereon depending in AMERICA, Vice-Admiral of the same, and Admiral of the White Squadron of His Majestys Fleet, and also of and concerning the Government of our said Lord the King, of this his said Majestys Province of New York, & of and concerning his said Majestys Council of the same Province, and all Magistrates, and his said Majestys Officers, within the same, & of and concerning many other good and faithfull Subjects of our S<sup>d</sup> Lord the King within the same, he the S<sup>d</sup> Oliver DeLancey then and there prophanely, factiously & Seditiously said uttered and openly with a loud Voice published and declared these false, malicious, Seditious, factious, contemptuous and opprobrious Words

David Johnsons Deposition	& Lyes, & prophane curse & Oath following (to wit) <i>Damn the Governour</i> (his Excellency the s <sup>d</sup> Hon <sup>ble</sup> George Clinton meaning) <i>and all them</i> (his said Majestys Council of this Province and the Magistrates and Officers, and other his said Majesty's good and faithfull subjects within this Province meaning) <i>that take his part</i> (the part of his said Excellency the Hon <sup>ble</sup> George Clinton meaning) <i>The Governour</i> (his
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Alex Colhoun's  
Deposition

Franc:Smyth

Cummins's  
Deposition

Jno Woolaston

said Exe<sup>lly</sup> the Hon<sup>ble</sup> George Clinton meaning) *is a dam<sup>d</sup> Rogue a dam<sup>d</sup> . . . fellow, the worst Governour that ever was in this Province,* (the Province of New York meaning) *That all the People about him* (his Majesty's Council of this Province and the Magistrates and Officers and other his said Majesty's good and faithfull Subjects within this Province meaning) *are a pack of damd Scoundrels. The Governour* (his said Excellency the hon<sup>ble</sup> George Clinton meaning) *is a scrub. BY GOD I* (himself the said Oliver meaning) *say the Governour* (his said Excellency the hon<sup>ble</sup> George Clinton meaning) *is an arrant Villain Scoundrel and Rascal. I* (himself the S<sup>d</sup> Oliver meaning) *call him so, and so are all and every Man* (his said Majesty's Council of this Province and the Magistrates and officers, & others his said Majestys good & faithfull Subjects, within this Province meaning) *Villains, Scoundrels and Rascals And I* (himself the s<sup>d</sup> Oliver meaning) *say the Governour* (his said Excellency the hon<sup>ble</sup> George Clinton meaning) *and every man that keeps him company* (his Majestys Council of this Province and the Magistrates & Officers, and other his Majesty's good and faithfull Subjects, who keep his said Excellency the hon<sup>ble</sup> George Clinton company meaning) *are Villains, Scoundrels and Rascals And go and tell the Governor* (his Excel-

lency the hon<sup>ble</sup> George Clinton mean) *I* (himself the said Oliver meaning,) *call him so. And if I* (himself the said Oliver meaning,) *can any way bribe any person or persons to inform the Governour* (his said Excellency the hon<sup>ble</sup> George Clinton meaning) *what I* (himself the said Oliver meaning) *have said I* (himself the s<sup>d</sup> Oliver meaning) *will bribe him or them to deliver the*

*Message.* In great and manifest contempt of our Lord the King now, and his Laws; and to the Scandal, Disgrace & Ignominy of his Said Majesty, & of his Government, and of his said Excellency the Honourable George Clinton, his said Majestys Governour, and of his said Majestys Council, Magistrates, Officers and others his good & faithfull Subjects within this Province, to the evil & pernicious Example of all others in the like Case to offend, and against the Peace of our Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity &c: Whereupon he the said attourney General of our said Lord the King, for the same our Lord the King, prays the advice of this Court in the Premises, and the due process of the Law against the said Oliver De Lancey, in this part to be made, to answer to our Said Lord the King of and in the Premises: &c:

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*Cadwallader Colden to Governor William Shirley*

[Copy]

NEW YORK July 25<sup>th</sup> 1749

To Gov<sup>r</sup> Shirley

The honour you do me by yours of 26<sup>th</sup> of last month wherein you are pleas'd to give me your Excellency's approbation of my Conduct in assisting Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton fully compensates the injuries I receive from the Slander of a few Maliceous men

I have this comfort in my own breast that I am perswaded The Malice as to my character has not the least effect with men of Sense & No man who knows me entertains a Worse opinion of me on that acct On the contrary it has been often said these People establish Mr Colden's Character when the shew so much malice & inclination to find fault & yet are not able to point out one even after they have been publickly challeng'd to do it. My ennemies have with considerate men don more to establish my good Character than could otherwise have been don.

But notwithstanding of this if wicked men should succeed by the basest & most dishonourable means to the highest offices in the Government what effect must this have upon peoples minds & manners By such like men & by such like practices the best established Republics & Gov<sup>ts</sup> have been ruin'd As to this Gov<sup>t</sup> I can give you a flagrant instance what effect the principles of these men have upon the minds & morals of their intimate friends there is not a man of this toun who knows O D & is not perswaded that he has rail'd at Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton & abus'd his Character almost in every company & conversation wherein either Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton's name or the publick affairs have been mention'd & yet Phil. Vanhorn a constant bottle Companion of his & present in the company when the Dispute happen'd with Dr Colhoun on his Examination before the Council on his oath which he had taken said that he did not remember ever to have heard Oliver De Lancey speak disrespectfully of the Gov<sup>r</sup> This shocks every honest man of the Faction But S<sup>r</sup> I believe the greatest hopes are from the Nemine Contradicente Resolves of the Assembly & from the Opinion they have that the ministry will think it prudent to comply with the humours of the People or that they may think that man the most capable to restore the Gov<sup>t</sup> who has had such power to distress it. You know S<sup>r</sup> What kind of Creature an American assembly is & yet you cannot have a sufficient conception of the Ignorance & mean spirit of the Dutch members here most of them



of the lowest rank of Artificers It requires but a small degree of Artifice to make them believe the greatest absurdities of a Governor, & I durst undertake that if 4 or 5 men were not in that house & others in their place to have all the Nem. Con's on the other side of the Question I am well assured that many of them at this time only want a leader to show their dissatisfaction with the present measures However inconsistent this may be thought yet your Excell<sup>y</sup> is so well acquainted with American Assembly that I think you can believe it The Chief Justice's Commission of Lt Governor The Gov<sup>r</sup> not being able to shew any thing from the Ministry are the two only things which at present supports the Faction & they make a very bad use of it I am well assured that the Generality of People are displeased with the proceedings of the assembly at this time & that few desire to have the Chief Justices Power enlarged but on the contrary all with a very small exception wish to have the wings of the De Lancey family clipt None tollerably acquainted in this place can doubt of this And you your self I am perswaded from the knowledge you have of men must believe it to be true But men not engaged in the publick disputes love their own quiet & are desirous of keeping themselves from a resentment which may be dangerous to them in many respects Some of my friends have told me that they would not undertake the trouble I have gone through these three years last past for a thousand pounds a year But if it shall once appear that the Chief Justice's Interest is not sufficient to support him in the Measures he has taken & that the King is resolv'd to support his Prorogative in the Plantations the publick affairs in this Government will soon have a different Appearance

You know too well S<sup>r</sup> how much his Majesty's Service in the Plantations suffer'd during the last War by Factions & licentiousness & that the Factions in this Government prevented the putting in practise measures which must have effectually destroy'd the French Interest & Commerce among the Indians So that they could not



have recover'd it in many years if ever And you can better judge than I what consequences may be apprehended after this if this factious spirit in the Colonies be not suppressed

I have been near 30 years in the Council of this Province & longer conversant in the publick affairs of it & *in all that time* I do not remember that any publick money was drawn by any Gov<sup>r</sup> from the Treasury & applied to any other use than what it was design'd for by the assembly that granted it except for a Perquisite which the Kings Auditor of his revenue claim'd & you know S<sup>r</sup> what influence the Gov<sup>rs</sup> were under at that time to make them do this This gave the first rise to the Clamour & I remember no other instance that can be given If Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton had made use of his power in drawing the least sum out of the Treasury contrary to the intent of the granters it cannot be doubted this assembly would have pointed it particularly out but no such thing has so much as been attempted On the Contrary I am perswaded that there has been more of the publick money converted to private use since the Assem<sup>y</sup> assumed the sole power of issueing it than has been don in any shape by all or any of the Governors since I came into this Province I am so much perswaded of the truth of this that I could but the whole contraversy upon this single issue This evidently shews for what purpose Clamour & Slander has been so much propogated on this head & which the Faction knew must have a strong effect on ignorant people & others who are not well acquainted with the publick affairs of this Govern<sup>t</sup>

It may deserve the observation of his Majesty's Ministers that Virginea is the only Colony where there is a petual revenue for the Support of Gov<sup>t</sup> I hear of no complaints in that Colony of their Governor of or any complaint the Gov<sup>r</sup> makes of the People whereas great complaints are heard in every other Colony of the one or the other or of both

I believe a future assembly may be brought to consent to have the publick money issued by Warrant as

formerly but I doubt that any will consent to a revenue for years far less to a perpetual revenue because thereby they must loose that power & influence on a Governor that every member is fond of But I am of opinion that his Majesty's Quitrents of Lands in this Province if properly regulated would be more than sufficient for the support of the civil Governm<sup>t</sup> in it & therefore the State of his Majesty's Quitrents may deserve attention.

At the first settling of this Colony the lands were granted without fixing the rent but under such rent a should afterwards be established & these now commonly pay no rent as no rent has been established Others were to pay a bushel of Wheat for so much land as was thought sufficient for a Farm. The quitrents of the house lots in this town & Albany about a penny a foot front So the grants continued for several years till some families began to abound in money & found means to perswade succeeding Governors to make extravagant Grants of Lands under trifling Quitrents such as 100,000 or 200,000 Acres for 20 or 40s a year & some as the Proprietors now claim contain above a million of Acres. These Grants were made without any previous Survey as was usual & without mentioning the Quantity of Land but bounded by hills or Rivers under Indian names now not known with any certainty & thereby the Claimers of these lands extend them as they think fit who are now some of the principal Demagogues in oppressing the Administration. Since the year 1709 all lands have been granted at the rate of 2/6 proclaimed money for every hundred acres & regular Surveys are made previously to the Grant. It cannot well be imagined that any Governor made these Grants so prejudicial to his constituents interest merely in the Gayety of his heart but that some indirect means were made use of by the Grantees in obtaining of them I must think that a private person would in Chancery obtain relief against the Deeds of his attorney impower'd to sell lands where a fraud in the purchaser must be evident as where a purchase is made for less then a hundredth part of the Value

so I am perswaded the King in Chancery must have relief against the Grantee in the case of these Grants. But tho' the People be generally dissatisfied with these Grants & while a great part of the Province pays 2/6 Procl. Money Quitrent for every hundred Acres The Quitrent of another great part does not amount to one farthing for a hundred Acres Every one is sensible how prejudicial these excessive grants have been to the Settlement & improvement of this Colony & is the true reason why it is not near so populous & well cultivated as the neighbouring colonies either to the Southward or Northward of it Yet if Prosecutions in Chancery were set on foot in this Province where the Govr is Chancillor such clamour & Jealousy would be rais'd as might have bad effects Therefore I am of opinion that the most prudent method would be by application to Parliament & I think that a Parliament would give the King relief in a case where the Equity of it is of it self so manifest

About the year 1726 I sent a Memorial to the Board of Trade wherein the state of the Quitrents is more particularly set forth & which was so much taken notice of by that Board that on what was represented in it An act for Partition of Lands in this Province was disallowd & repeal'd by the King

But I must inform your Excellency that any information of this kind I now make will be attended with such resentment as I choose to avoid & I believe I feel to this day the effects of that Memorial There are some in this Province capable of every thing that Cæsar Borgia was And therefore I must beg that nothing of this appear as from me in the publick offices

The office of Chief Justice has more influence on the public affairs in this Country than can well be imagined No man that has any Property can think himself independent of the Courts of Justice however carefull his behaviour in life may be There are in this Country numbers of Lawyers who's bread & fortune depend on the Countenance of a Chief Justice & who may serve as his emissaries & spies in every part of the Country When



then a Chief Justice puts himself at the head of a party in this Country he becomes as formidable at the head of the Laws as the Popes formerly were in the days of Ignorance at the head of the Monks & friers Two noted lawyers begging to be excused from appearing for the King agt O D is a strong evidence of this. The usage which I met with from Chief Justice DeLancey in a Committee of Council of the Particulars of which Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton has inform'd you & the Treatment that Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton's friends meet with on all occasions from him & his Brother shews how he makes use of the Power of his office to intimidate He told me in Conversation which was over heard by others & I believe still remember'd that I would find that a Chief Justice has more Power than a Governor A Chief Justice known to be of an implacable temper is a terrible thing in this Country. Chief Justices born in this Country have fallen into these party disputes either threw ambition or family interests & therefor it seems most for the due administration of Justice that the Chief Justice (at least) should be sent from England as was the practise formerly till about the year 1715 Chief Justice DeLancey's Commission during good behaviour is an obstruction to this but as all former Commissions to the Chief Justice were made out on the Kings Mandamus to the Gov<sup>r</sup> for doing it & M<sup>r</sup> DeLancey could not or did not obtain such Mandamus it may be askt whether a Commission under the great Seal of Great Brittain can supersede a Commission under the Seal of this Province tho' granted during good behaviour. Every man must know that it will be difficult in any case to convict a Chief Justice of Misbehaviour by a Jury & there is no other method in this Province to deprive him of that office whatever his conduct be

The Indian affairs deserve the most serious attention as not only a very considerable branch of the Brittish Commerce but likewise the Security of the Colonies in North America depends upon it They has been exceedingly neglected by the English while the French have applied indefatigable industry to promote their Interest



Seldom any have been imploy'd in manageing publick affairs with the Indians but a low ignorant set of mankind who were capable of no other views but that of promoting their private profit in Trade & which they have don by the most shamefull means so as to become contemptible in the eyes of the Indians Your Excellency is so well acquainted with these affairs that it is needless to enlarge upon them The strongest proof of what may be don appears by what Coll Johnson did last War & at this time The Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada has at this time sent out a considerable force with a view it is thought to chastise those nations who favour'd us in the late War & to obstruct the English commerce to the Westward He sent the Caknuaga's among the five Nations to incite them to make Wars on the Flatt heads & they would have gon if Coll Johnson had not prevented it By the information the Gov<sup>r</sup> has from Oswego The Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada has not been able to perswade any one Nation of Indians to join with him no not so much as the Caknuagas who live near Montreal & were ingaged with him in the last War That only six single Indians are now gon with the French party The five Nations at the Conclusion of Any former War made Peace Separately with the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada & enter'd into Treaties & Negociations prejudicial to the Interest of the Crown of Great Brittain The Gov<sup>r</sup> has hitherto stopt their going to Canada they have deliver'd up to him all the French prisoners that were in their hands & trust to him for obtaining the Liberty of their prisoners who are in Canada So that if he be not disabled by the assemblies refusing him sufficient supplies for this Service it is hopd this entering into Treaties between the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada & the Six Nations may for the future be prevented

I am told that S<sup>r</sup> Peter Waren has advised Coll Johnson who is his Nephew no longer to assist Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton in the Indian affairs & to decline all publick business & to attend only his own private affairs It is so much Coll

Johnson's interest to please his Uncle that it is expected he will submit to his Desire which the ingratitude of the Assembly might make him likewise incline to do. The Faction hereby hopes that the Indian affairs will return into the old channel of Comm<sup>rs</sup> at Albany What is like to be the consequence of this your Excell<sup>y</sup> from past experience can Judge as well as any man I've heard that Col<sup>l</sup> Johnson has recommended M<sup>r</sup> Lydeus to be Secretary for Indian affairs but I doubt of his being equal to this task In my opinion some person of known prudence should be imploy'd to superintend the Indian affairs with a sufficient allowance to support him in the execution of his Duty & to reside at Albany This officer to be immediately under the Direction of the Gov<sup>r</sup> of New York but to Correspond with all the neighbouring Governors By this Method I think the Indians affairs may be soon brought into such a state that the Nation will reap great Benefite by it

We have at this instant a fresh instance in what manner the publick affairs suffer by the Assembly's assuming to themselves the whole executive powers The Gov<sup>r</sup> told the assembly that unless he be enabled to send to Canada proper persons in order to obtain the Liberty of the Indians that are prisoners there the Six Nations are now at this time prepared to go to Canada to make submission to the French Gov<sup>r</sup> & to enter into Treaties with him The assembly lays hold of the necessity of this Service & the knowledge they have of the Gov<sup>rs</sup> good nature force him to put the Execution of it into their hands For this purpose they contrived on an open breach with the Gov<sup>r</sup> & resolve that they cannot proceed on any Business till they receive Satisfaction as your Excell<sup>y</sup> will more particularly see in the copies of the proceedings which I presume Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton will send to you As soon as this was don the Speaker came to the Gov<sup>r</sup> to desire a Prorogation for a day or two after which if the Gov<sup>r</sup> would wave the Kings instructions they would come to a resolution to furnish a sufficient sum

to defray the expense of sending to Canada by lodging a sum in two *persons* hands at Albany viz two of their own members for that purpose. The Gov<sup>r</sup> said he could not see of what use a prorogation could be since he cannot in any manner recede from the Kings Instruction in what he before demanded but proposed to please them in saving appearances in their proceedings That they might direct the Treasurer to come into Council as of himself & others to offer to pay any Warrants to be drawn by the Gov<sup>r</sup> with the advice & consent of the Council for this service not exceeding a certain sum to be agreed upon with the Assembly This the speaker said the house would not consent to not from any suspicion they had of misapplication but because it would be of bad example At the same time that the Gov<sup>r</sup> cannot command a single farthing of the publick money for the most necessary Service he is told that the Speaker takes what sums he pleases for secret services Now from the whole of the proceedings this Session I believe your Excellency will think matters are brought to an issue for the Kings Determination whether his Instructions are to be obey'd or the Gov<sup>t</sup> given up to a Faction in an Assembly

The Faction appears evidently to be under great Uneasiness They openly in the house blame me & me only for their being brought under these difficulties & say that I love a tyrannical form of Government &c & am desirous to introduce it The whole load of their resentment falls on me & my friends tell me that I am not even free from the Danger of a private stab from some persons

However inconsiderable Chief Justice DeLancey may think it proper to represent me to be yet as my whole conduct & behaviour since the Expedition ag<sup>t</sup> Canada was first set on foot in this Country during the War & since the Conclusion of it is well known to your Excellency What Service I have endeavour'd to do his Majesty & what obstructions the Faction have laid in



the way of every service in prosecuting the War to advantage & how they were thereby render'd ineffectual & as I have so remarkably opposed & defeated the Usurpations of a most daring Faction on his Majesty's Prerogative the incouragement or Discouragement I may meet with will be a standing example for future times

The variety of publick affairs in which I am at this time imploy'd I hope will excuse the want of method & many inaccuracies which may appear in this The Zeal which you have on all occasions exerted in his Majesty's Service & the Indignation which I perswade my self every man of honour must conceive at the Wicked & Malicious attempts on Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton's Character & mine will incite your Excellency to represent these matters to his Majesties ministers so far as you think your self sufficiently inform'd of them & the dangerous consequences which you shall think may flow from this factious spirit that justice may be don to every one concern'd according to their Demerits

If your Excellency think as I hope you will that I have been in my Duty & deserve incouragement & Support from his Majesty's servants pray do me the honour of a line after you arive in England as it may be of the greatest use to me for my future conduct & please to send your letters either to some friend in Boston or under cover to M<sup>r</sup> Benj<sup>n</sup> Franklin Post Master at Philadelphia for Letters by the post will come safe to my hands but any by ships directly to this place in the common bag are in danger from a set of letter pirates in this place

That your Excellency may have a happy Voyage be successfull in your affairs & be receiv'd by the King your Master with that favour which is justly due to your past services & known merit is the most sincere & hearty wish of

[Endorsed]

Ruff Draft of a Letter

to Gov<sup>r</sup> SHIRLEY July 25 1749



*From Ferd. John Paris*

SURREY STREET LONDON 26<sup>th</sup> July 1749.

Sir

In addition to mine of the 24<sup>th</sup> Instant by this Vessel, I am to acquaint you, That I learn, That My Lord Chancellor (who had been The Governor's Patron) has agreed that he ought to be removed; Also That The Board of Trade have, This day, agreed on a Report of facts, to be made by them, together with their fix'd maxim and principle, That peace, and good order, cannot be Restored to New Jersey, nor the Kings Authority Supported there, till, whoever has the Government there, is made, in Some measure, independent of The people; That is to Say, has Some appointment from hence; and proposing Several Alternative Schemes, One of which to be Chosen by the Ministry, for Setting matters to Rights; As first, a New Gov<sup>r</sup> to be Sent from hence, with a Salary, and a Considerable force also, to be Sent from Hence; 2<sup>dly</sup>. a New Gov<sup>r</sup>, and a Salary, from hence, and to take Such force As may be got, at New York, or elsewhere, in The Neighbourhood; And 3<sup>dly</sup> the Reannexing the Gov<sup>r</sup>m<sup>t</sup> of Jersey to that of York; which last, they imagine, may be the Scheme that may be persued: Here they meet with uncommon difficulties, as M<sup>r</sup> Clinton (and M<sup>r</sup> Shirely also) are Coming home, and no New Gov<sup>r</sup> fixd yet for New York, and They dread The Consequences of a Delay, which I also acquaint Them, from your Letters, may prove dangerous. They are thinking, also, what particular powers and Instructions are to be given, to whosoever Shall be the bearer of the King's orders; what pardons to be Issued, by Such persons; how many to be Excepted in *Number* (as They don't know The *Names* of any Principalls to be Excepted, Save Amos Roberts); what methods to be taken, to bring in offenders, and to punish Them, &c. for all which They find precedents, in The Original papers, remaining in their office, relating to Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia in

1676. This affair grows very heavy and Expensive, and Engrosses my whole time and Attention, I must therefore pray you to make Suitable Remittances, and remain  
Sir

your most obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
FERD JOHN PARIS

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*From Peter Collinson*

By Last ship I took Some Notice of my Dear Friends Letter of may 31<sup>st</sup> and by him sent in my Letter M<sup>r</sup> ——— proposals for fire Engines for I did not think it prudent to buy one before you had some Intelligence about them

Next I must tell you I am Confounded between Grasshopper, Cicada & Locust these Two last you tell Mee are very different I always thought them the Same pray give orders to your people in the Country to Catch 2 or 3 of Each Species & pin them within side a Little Box, but first drown them in Spirits of Wine or Else they'l Live a Long while in pain with the pinn through them—pray amidst your Numerous affairs don't forget this for I am Impatient to know the Difference

I had the pleasure of y<sup>rs</sup> of July 7<sup>th</sup> with the paquet for Doc<sup>r</sup> Mitchell w<sup>ch</sup> I shall Deliver when He returns from Scotland with the Duke of Argyle

I wish poor Kalm may get safe to Canada & back again I wish He is not picked up Some Straggling French Indians

The Books you Desired I have procured and the Clover Seed as <sup>tho</sup> accot I gave Strict orders in writeing that the Barrel of Clover Seed Should not be putt in the Hold of the Ship—for the Heat of that place very much Impairs if not totally Kills the Seed the reasons I am <sup>tho</sup>swaded you'll easily Suggest without my Sentiments being straightened for Time can only Add that I am y<sup>r</sup> affectionate

Fr<sup>d</sup>

P COLLINSON.

1749 Aug <sup>s</sup>	£
17: <sup>th</sup> all books as by Bill.....	10: 2: 0
Clover Seed &c.....	3: 1: 6
Shiping Charges, bills Load <sup>s</sup> & primage	9 9
	<hr/>
	£ 13:13: 3

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
New York

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*Memorandum by Cadwallader Colden  
Concerning a dispute over his Oblong lot.*

Information given this 23<sup>d</sup> day of August 1749 by Thomas Woolcot my tenant on my lot in the Oblong near Dover in Dutchess County

That on thursday the 3<sup>d</sup> of August the said Thomas Woolcot was putting up a log house on the said lot being assisted in his work by Thomas Wilcox Joseph Gillet both living in Dover & Elisha Haringtone a Taylor. Towards evening when the house was so high as to be fit to lay on the Wall plaits John Sacket came with an Ax in his hand & began to cut the timber of the house & claim'd the Land after The said Woolcot had bid him stand off as he the said Wolcott was at work on the said land by a lease or right from D<sup>r</sup> Colden the owner of that land That Woolcott pushed said Sacket from the house & he indeavour'd to return again in order to cut the timber to pieces & made several attempts with his Ax. On which Woolcot threaten'd to strike his brains out if he did not desist & Sacket threaten'd to strike the Ax into Woolcott's Breast After several Strugles Sacket at last went away

That on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August one named German came with a Warrant from Justice Barton of Filkingtone & took the said Woolcott & Haringtone into Custody & carried them before the said Justice Barton who bound



the said Woolcott to his good behaviour & to appear at the Quarter Sessions on the third tuesday of October next

That two nights after he was bound over his fence was thrown down in the night & Sackets Catle were in the field & pull'd & threw down a stack of wheat which was in the field That no Creature since the fence was first made had before that time broke the fence But he cannot prove that Sacket or any other threw down the fence

Woolcott has been on the land to work since the beginning of May was a twelvemonths past & his family has been there near a year

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*Cadwallader Colden to Justice Barton*

[Copy]

COLDENGHAM Aug 23<sup>d</sup> 1749

Mr Barton

The Bearer of this Thomas Woolcott my Tenant on a lott of my land in the Oblong near Dover tells me that you have bound him to his good behaviour & to Appear at the next Quarter Sessions for defending himself & his house from an Assault made by John Sacket on him & an attempt to pull down & to cut to pieces the house which he was then building That the said Sacket while Woolcott is bound over takes advantage thereof to throw down the said Woolcotts fences & to let his Catle destroy his Grain. I shall not araign your Judgement in this case but that Woolcott must make his Defence at Court & I hope he will justify himself there but it seems strange to me since Sacket was the first aggressor & assaulted Woolcott at his lawfull imployment that he was suffer'd to go free without being bound likewise to the Peace & I expect that upon Thomas Woolcotts' Application you will do him Justice therein & that John Sacket be likewise bound over to appear at the next Quarter Sessions



there to answer for an Assault made on the said Woolcott by an attempt to cut down & destroy a house he was then building if Woolcott prove such an assault before you as he tells me he can for it must be very hard if a man be not allow'd to defend himself & his own house when another comes on purpose to assault him

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*Cadwallader Colden to John Crooke*

COLDENGHAM August 24<sup>th</sup> 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

One Thomas Woolcott a Tenant I have on a lott of land in the Oblong near Dover in Dutchess County tells me that while he was raising a logg house on that land & had it as high as to be ready to lay the Wallplaits John Sacket towards evening came with an ax in his hand & while Woolcott was upon the house he began with his Ax to cut the timber to pieces on which Woolcott came down & pull'd him from the house & some Struggle happen'd afterwards between them About a week afterwards Woolcott on the complaint of John Sacket was taken into Custody & carried by Warrant from Justice Barton of Filkingtone before him Who bound him Woolcott to his good Behaviour & to appear at the next Quarter Sessions the third tuesday of October next at Poghkepsy

Now S<sup>r</sup> I think that tho' John Sacket may lay claim to the land yet as Woolcott was in possession & his family had lived on the land above a year had plow'd & sow'd & reapt a Crop of wheat was at the time in peaceable possession & about his lawfull employments when John Sacket came with an ax & assaulted him by endeavouring to pull down the house he was then building & destroy the timber of it John Sacket was the aggressor & broke the peace while Woolcott only defended himself & his house I therefore think that Barton has don injustice to Woolcott That John Sacket ought to have been bound

over & not Woolcott & is liable to be indicted for the Assault. If Sacket claim the land he has his Action of Trespass to which I am ready to answer Now S<sup>r</sup> as I am inform'd that you attend the Dutchess County Courts I must desire you to inquire more particularly into this affair & assist Woolcott that Justice be don & I shall answer for your fees In doing this you will likewise oblige me Please to inform me of your receipt of this & of what you shall afterwards do or what may be further proper to be don I am

S<sup>r</sup>

Your humble servant

CADWALLADER COLDEN

To JOHN CROOKE Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Attorney at Law  
Kingstone

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*From Thomas Wolcott*

OBLONG Sept<sup>m</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>: 1749

Mr Colding

After Dew Regards theas may Enform you that I have given Esq Barton your Letter & he hath Done Nothing but Sent Sacit a Letter he Counts Sacit has the right of Soil and he is not to be bound for what he has Done &c.

he the Sd Sacket hath a field att the South Side of mine and no fence that is good between us and he hath no feede theair but maks that his Excuse to turn in all his Cattell and horsis which Come and Dstroy all my Corn and gras and Doth tell all the Neibours and me that he will pasture in his own Land and he Saith I have none hear and his Evidence is You Dare not molest him he hath bin trying and giving you all procuacation & aduantry that he Can yet you Dare not touch him and for the futer he will not Sufer me to raise any thing and the truth is: Sir that he hath brought the princebell men Neibrous to be of his mind Sir I have Lost the half of my grain by his proceedings and I cannot Live So he

or I: must go away if the matter Cannot have a tryall  
 Sir forthwith I am undone: and he Saith he will improve  
 in the fields of mine this year Sir I pray you to Con-  
 sider me and have Sackitt in the Law and Lett me have  
 Rest and if you will not pray give me an Indamnyfiend  
 bond to Secure me in my Labours hear me father my  
 miseries are ten fold greater then you are aware but in  
 Exceeding hast Sir I Remain

Your Hum<sup>b</sup> Ser<sup>tt</sup>

THOMAS WOLCOTT

[Indorsed]  
 To His  
 Magestys Counselor  
 CADWALIDER COLDING  
 att  
 Coldingham

*From J Betts to James Alexander*

S<sup>r</sup>

I reced y<sup>e</sup> Copy of your observations very safe, which  
 were y<sup>e</sup> more agreeable to me, as I have not been able to  
 procure any good ones made on y<sup>t</sup> Comet—for tho' I have  
 collected a great Variety made in different parts of y<sup>e</sup>  
 World, yet they differ so widely from one another, y<sup>t</sup> I  
 have been able to make but little use of y<sup>m</sup>—& I heartilly  
 wish y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Method you used in Observing may be prac-  
 ticable with y<sup>t</sup> accuracy, which is absolutely necessary  
 for determining y<sup>e</sup> Orbits of Comets, considering y<sup>e</sup> small  
 time of their Appearance

At y<sup>e</sup> time M<sup>r</sup> Collinson sent y<sup>e</sup> Observations to me,  
 I was very ill with a Fever, & still continue too much  
 indispos'd to apply myself to Computations—but as soon  
 as I recover my Health, I will examine y<sup>m</sup> very carefully;  
 & (if they agree with y<sup>e</sup> Elements I have by me, & y<sup>e</sup>  
 other observations, which I know to be good Ones) lay  
 y<sup>m</sup> before y<sup>e</sup> Society: as it will furnish me with an Oppor-  
 tunity of making a public Acknowledgment for a Favour,  
 by which I think y<sup>e</sup> R. Society & myself greatly obliged

Among y<sup>e</sup> Observations I find two on y<sup>e</sup> Comet of  
 1748, which was very well observ'd by D<sup>r</sup> Bradley at



Greenwich, who sent me his Observations to determine its Orbit—as yet I have not communicated y<sup>e</sup> Elements to y<sup>e</sup> R. Society, but have subjoin'd a Copy of y<sup>m</sup>, y<sup>t</sup> you may examine any other Observations You may have made on it, or pleasure your Friends at Zenger, who perhaps saw it better y<sup>n</sup> we did in England, for during y<sup>e</sup> whole time of its appearance here it was visible to y<sup>e</sup> naked Eye but for a few Nights, & was so badly situated with respect to y<sup>e</sup> fixt Stars y<sup>t</sup> it c<sup>d</sup> be seldom observ'd with y<sup>e</sup> Micrometer—however out of more y<sup>n</sup> 30 Observations above 20 came within y<sup>e</sup> Minute, which is a Degree of exactness as great as can either be requir'd or wish'd for—I have also added y<sup>e</sup> Elements for y<sup>e</sup> Comet in 1742 which were determin'd from 5 accurate Observations, & are undoubtedly near y<sup>e</sup> Truth

By a Letter, which came with y<sup>e</sup> Observations, I am induced to believe you are y<sup>e</sup> Gentleman to whom a Pamphlet written by D<sup>r</sup> Colden was dedicated, & which was publish'd here some time since—y<sup>e</sup> D<sup>r</sup> in his Dedication, & near y<sup>e</sup> close of his Book gives I confess, very little Encouragement to y<sup>e</sup> learned World, to expect y<sup>t</sup> he w<sup>d</sup> compleat his Design, & its now very near 4 years since his Book first appear'd in England—but I really thought a Person of his Philosophic Turn c<sup>d</sup> not stop short in y<sup>e</sup> midst of such usefull & pleasing Speculations for a few Inconveniences, & have been therefore in full Expectation of hearing, y<sup>t</sup> he had given us a new Theory of y<sup>e</sup> Moon, which is more wanted, y<sup>n</sup> its generally apprehended to be—This is a Discovery, which every one knows y<sup>e</sup> Value of, y<sup>t</sup> is not quite a Stranger to Astronomy—but yet there are some other particulars y<sup>e</sup> Dr mentions, which equally please & surprize me—as for Instance, an Explication of S<sup>r</sup> Isaac's Theorems, without y<sup>e</sup> assistance of y<sup>e</sup> Conic Sections, which I know in some Cases is possible, but can form no Notion of any principles, which can render y<sup>s</sup> Solution general, & extend equally to all y<sup>e</sup> Cases which y<sup>t</sup> noble Authour has considered—another advantage of y<sup>e</sup> Doctrine he has deliver'd is he saies, an easy & certain Method of forming



Equations for y<sup>e</sup> Planets' Motions & Orbits—which by y<sup>e</sup> common Rules he justly observes is very difficult & perplexing. now tho' this latter may seem a Discovery of much less importance, as we are already acquainted with Methods, by which Equations may be formed for any Orbit whatever; yet I confess y<sup>t</sup> nothing w<sup>d</sup> give me greater pleasure y<sup>n</sup> to be acquainted with such a Method; especially as I can have no Idea (tho I have spent some time in thinking upon y<sup>s</sup> Subject) how y<sup>e</sup> D<sup>rs</sup> or any Theory can be applied to y<sup>e</sup> Planets Motions, without regard had to y<sup>e</sup> Properties of y<sup>e</sup> Curves they describe—& if that be the Case, I am as much at a loss to conceive how y<sup>e</sup> Equations may be determined with less difficulty, y<sup>n</sup> by y<sup>e</sup> known Methods—but as I can easily expect y<sup>e</sup> Solution of any Problem from a Person of y<sup>e</sup> D<sup>rs</sup> Abilities, how intricate soever it may appear to others of less Genius & Sagacity, I hope y<sup>t</sup> by your Friendship & y<sup>e</sup> Regard y<sup>e</sup> D<sup>r</sup> himself has for Philosophy & Philosophical Men, he may be induced to finish his Design, which I am sure w<sup>d</sup> be thankfully reced by y<sup>e</sup> learned World—I am

S<sup>r</sup>

Your obliged humble Servant

J. BETTS

Univ: Coll: Oxon:

Sept<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 49Elements of y<sup>e</sup> Comet in 1748

	S	O	'	"
Place of y <sup>e</sup> Node.....	7:	22:	58:	20
Place of y <sup>e</sup> Perihelion.....	7:	5:	5:	30
Perihelion from y <sup>e</sup> Node.....		17:	52:	50
Log. Sine of y <sup>e</sup> Inclination.....	9.9	9	8	6 1 7
Log Cosine of y <sup>e</sup> Inc.....	8.9	0	1	3 4 6
Log of y <sup>e</sup> Perihelion Distance.....	9.9	2	4	2 4 5
Log. of y <sup>e</sup> daily Motion.....	0.0	7	3	7 6 0
	D	H	'	"

Time of y<sup>e</sup> Perihelion April 17: 23: 23': 15" Greenwich  
Mean Time

Elements of y<sup>e</sup> Comet in 1742

	S	O	'	"
Place of y <sup>e</sup> Node.....	6.	5:	35:	50
Place of y <sup>e</sup> Perihelion.....	7.	7:	37:	25
Perihelion from y <sup>e</sup> Node.....		32.	.1	35
Log sine of y <sup>e</sup> Inclination.....	9.	9	6	4 2 1 2
Log Cosine of y <sup>e</sup> Inc.....	9.	5	9	0 8 4 7
Log of y <sup>e</sup> Perihelion Distance.....	9.	8	8	3 6 7 4
Log of y <sup>e</sup> diurnal Motion.....	0.	1	3	4 6 1 1

D   H   '   "

Time of y<sup>e</sup> Perihelion Jan<sup>ry</sup> 28: 3: 26: 30

[Indorsed]

To  
JAMES ALEXANDER Esq<sup>r</sup>  
New York.

*From John Crooke*

KINGSTON Sep<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1749

S:<sup>r</sup>

I rec<sup>d</sup> Your favour of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ult as a Duplicate or Copy of A Letter Sent before but have had no Opportunity I could rely on to Send an Answer before now, Since the receipt of those Letters.

As to the Affair of Woolcot Your Tenant if the fact is as he has represented the Same to You, I think he might Justify pulling him from the house (Especially if he had requested or desired him to forbear Cutting the timber of the house, for a Man May in many Cases Justify an assault in defence of his own person his wife his Children Servants or Goods if by Violence they are like to be taken away destroyed or Injured, nay I think it is ever Lawfull for a Man to Assemble his Neighbours And friends to defend them if any force or Violence be done or likely to be done

If M<sup>r</sup> Barton had bin So Carefull as to Examine the truth of the affair to the Bottom & upon Examination found it as represented To you, I think he ought to have bound Sackett to his Good behaviour, but partiality too

often, is predominant & Evidently appears in the transactions of Some Justices of the peace, tho I Cannot accuse him of any in this Case, for it may be owing to Misapprehension or wrong information or too Easily giving Credit to what Sackett Either Said or Swore

As I am altogether Unacquainted with Woolcot I know not what Credit to give to his Complaint or whether the facts be true as he alledges, therefore shall write to him And Desire that he does no way Endeavour to impose upon me by misrepresenting things And Desire him to get Copies of the Examinations if M<sup>r</sup> Barton took any And as farr as it is in my power to Serve You or him therein may be depended upon

If Sackett Continue Trespassing the Shorest Method is to Sue him in An Action of Trespass which I think may be done in the Court of Comon pleas or Supream Court tho the Damages are under forty Shillings at Election of the party but I should Choose to Sue him before A Justice Where if he Demurr upon title (as the Act Says) he must Enter into recognizance with Sureties to prosecute & bring on a tryal in the Comon pleas And if it be found agt him must pay treble Costs, and this also brings upon him the Onus probandi And if this Method be taken I am almost Confident that he never will try his title

I was Sometime Since informed that at his request A Road has bin laid out thro the very best part of A lott of Land belonging to You And from thence thro Mine to the Old Road, which Old Road Goes thro' my lott I believe near two Miles as it runs with windings and Turnings

I intend please God I am in health And Can Spare time to take A Ride there this fall & inform my Self as Exactly how it is as I can, I am told by one Isaac DeLametter who lives somewhere thereabouts that it is more Detrimental to Your Lott than Mine

I am  
S<sup>r</sup>.

[Indorsed]  
To

CADWALLADER COLDEN, Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
at Coldenham  
in Ulster County.

Your Very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JOHN CROOKE



*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE 11<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency arrived last tuesday night from a party of Fishing where he had been with C. J. Morris, for a fortnight, very well in health and Spirits (God be praised); Here has been Abeel from Canada, on his Parole of honour, with a Letter from the Marquis De Lajanquiere (the new Governour, Galessieneire being gone home) about Exchange of Prisoners; Abeel met Sanders with the six French Prisoners &c: all well at y<sup>e</sup> great Carrying place. His Excellency calld a Council upon the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada's Letter, the result of which was only, an Answer that he had Sent Sanders &c to treat with that Gov<sup>mt</sup> to which Deputation he referred him. By a Ship arrived at Boston, S<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Norris dead, Lord Ansen succeeds him as Vice Admiral of the Fleet, & Admiral Rowley as Rear, no Letters for his Excellency, or any other news, Co<sup>ll</sup> Moore dead or dying; Yesterday News from Newcastle man of Griffiths Arrival in a short passage all well on Board, I have heard that M<sup>r</sup> Cummins does not go to England, but is to return hither on some new Scheme.

His Excellency hopes you have er'e this made what progress you possibly could in procuring Evidences of Olivers abusive behaviour when at Esopus & up the River, which Evidences will be much properer than what may be or are got here. If you remember Sr you told me that you would think of a proper person to supersede Livingston, as Clarke of the Peace for Dutchess County which I hope you have done that his Excellency's Interest may be supported against the damd opposing Faction, who I am certain will leave no step untaken to weaken it, as appears here by the Instigation of C. J. and Murray to set up Major Drum, as their tool to throw out Alderman Lawrence from his Ward & that thereby they may have the majority in the Bench of Justices. There is a



Ship I have this moment heard sails for London tomorrow, she put in here <sup>to</sup> Distress, his Excellency is very busy writing by her, as well as your humble Servant, but we shall send the Packetts by C. J. Morris who will sail for England in about twelve days in a ship consigned to Mr Lane which put in here in her Voiage from Jamaica <sup>to</sup> distress: if you have any commands please S<sup>r</sup> to honour me with them & I'll take particular care to deliver them safe to C. J: Murray's favourite Negro Caesar is to be tryed next week for an attempt on a white Girl, I hope he will meet his desert but much doubt it, as his Master is to be at the Tryal, & as Has Terras nunc Astrea reliquit, my best Compliments of health & happiness attend Your self Lady & good Family which shall allways be the sincere Wishes of

S<sup>r</sup>

Your most obedient humble  
Serv<sup>t</sup>

J AYSCOUGH

P S

Assembly prorouged  
till 12<sup>th</sup> October prox.

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*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE 20 Sept<sup>r</sup> 1749S<sup>r</sup>

Mr Alexander has perused the Papers of Thomas Williams, and it his Opinion that the thing is disputable, & would not have his Excellency meddle with it, he says that Conveyance from the Patron to Williams is good, but that the Grant by Gov<sup>r</sup> Hunter to Coymans is dubious, (viz) whether a Governour giving a Grant in a manner that was in it self illegal (as the takes that of Gov<sup>r</sup> Hunter's to Coymans to be) can be valid to the person to whom given, but that if Williams will petition for & run the risque of taking up the Lands, his opinion

is that the Gover<sup>r</sup> should grant his prayer & receive his fees accordingly. I should be glad if you would write to M<sup>r</sup> Alexander on this head, who I believe will clear up this affair in a much better light than I do, M<sup>r</sup> Alexander & Smith are for driving off the Process against Oliver, till nearer the Sessions, in hopes to get more evidences in his Excellency's case, for which reason, he would be glad if you would let him know what more you have procured. His Excellency desires you will send him down by the very first opportunity, the Draft of the Instructions or Informations sent to M<sup>r</sup> Paris, which I copied & returned to you, that I may make a duplicate to send by this Ship, he desires you will not fail by the first Sloop. I am

S<sup>r</sup> with all due respect to self and good Family

Your most obedient

Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

J AYS COUGH

P S

His Excellency laid up  
with the Gout  
Governor Shirley not  
yet saild as we know

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK Sep<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1749

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

I have yours of the 19<sup>th</sup>—and as your Son tells me theres an opportunity tomorrow morning I Sett down to write this in haste

As to the Steps of Stairs at the Northwest End it was to keep within the Line of Good land on the map & the Easier to Compute the quantity, but I have no objection to a Straight Line so as to Contain nearly the Same land

Your Letter to M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Burnet I have read & approve of & Shall give it to C. J. Morris to Deliver—he received

your Letter you mention & read it to me & takes it kindly

Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton has bespoke A passage for Ch J. Morris in the Hutor man of war who does not propose to Sail till the midle of next month & it may be the End of it— C J Morris thinks of going to Philadelphia next week I suppose he will be a week or ten days there, I should be heartyly glad for Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton's Sake that you were here at his return, Seing no man can be more willing & few more able to Serve him in England than C J Morris, & the Chief matter will be wanting is to give him a good insight into what is to be done & into the materials for Effecting it which I think is impossible to Let him into So fully as you could

C J Morris tells me the Gov<sup>r</sup> is Extremely Chagrined with Catherwood having recd a Letter from him of a late date only acquainting him that his accounts concerning the Expedition are Lost mislaid or Secreted, & Desireing his Ex<sup>y</sup> to bring his accounts with him or to that purpose & no word of his other affairs—by which it Seems he has possessed the Gov<sup>rs</sup> friends with his intention of returning, & Consequently needless to do any thing in his other affairs till he come by a Letter from Paris this day Rec<sup>d</sup> whereof Coppy is inclosed you'll See its publicly taken for granted that the Gov<sup>r</sup> is returning, I Send you it not only for that but also to Show you the state of the jersey riot affair

We have many Letters from him almost of every weeks date with the many Steps that have been taken in this affair, One wherof was a meeting of all the Ministers of State at the board of Trade on July 12<sup>th</sup> when they met at 7 in the Evening & Continued together till one in the morning, when he M<sup>r</sup> Paris was Examined before them for an hour—he Certainly is a most Dilegent Sollicitor, & Exerts himself wonderfully in that affair—he writes that the board of trade highly approve of the proceedings of the Council dureing the two last Sessions of Assembly, but that they think Gov<sup>r</sup> Council & assembly were guilty of hightreason in passing the pardon act the

Session before, but the attorney & Sollicitor General think the Council are not Guilty—writes that they have reported that & our act for Staying proceedings at Law & our actt for pains & penaltys on the rioters all for his Majestys Disapprobation as Scandalous acts without any application for or against them also the £ 40,000 act that our assembly has been so fond of & was the real Source of the riots—So that they are resolved to go thro Sutch with the jersey affairs, had Paris been Employed in Gov<sup>r</sup> Clintons affairs in time I Doubt not he would have given as good an account of them & that if matters be well concerted before C J Morris's Departure he will in a Short time Still give a good account of them, with his & the assistance of M<sup>r</sup> Shirley who I find is Sailed I am

[Indorsed]

Your most obedient

To

& most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Coldingham.

JAS. ALEXANDER

*From Peter Collinson to John Colden*

In my Last I informed my Fr<sup>d</sup> John Colden that his draught for 21: 11: 0 on May<sup>d</sup> Guerin mett with some Demur—but Since that it is accepted—when paid Shall Carry it to y<sup>r</sup> Account—when you draw any more Bills, be sure mention the Sum drawn for *inwriteing* in the bill which was omitted and was an omission few would have dispensed with

It is necessary as I receive Money on your account that I should have your particular order for the Disposal of It—because y<sup>r</sup> Good Father desires mee to place the Books &c he has ordered to your account but this I cannot Legally do without your positive Directions for so doing which I expect in y<sup>r</sup> next

and am in the Intrim——

y<sup>r</sup> Sincere fr<sup>d</sup>

P COLLINSON

Lond<sup>n</sup> 8<sup>br</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1749

[Indorsed]

For

M<sup>r</sup> J<sup>n</sup><sup>o</sup> COLDEN  
New York.



*From John Ayscough to John Colden.*

FORT GEORGE 3<sup>d</sup> October 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency will be thankfull to you if you can send him down against the Kings' Birthday some good Venison or wild Turkeys or Wild fowl the Birth day is the 30<sup>th</sup> Instant

I am

S<sup>r</sup>

your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

J AYSCOUGH

[Indorsed]

To

JNO COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Clerk of the County  
at Albany.

---

*From James Colden*

WHITSOM 6<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1749

D. B<sup>r</sup>

I have wrote Several times to you, but have heard nothing from you of a long time, which gives me a good deal of uneasiness I can hardly think it possible you could refuse me the pleasure of having frequent accounts of you and your family if you knew what Satisfaction a letter from you gives me and what uneasiness I feel when I want it, it is true your correspondance with me can bring you no profit but I assure you it shal cost you nothing but the postage of the letter I return my family are all of them in their ordinary health, Sandy continues still with his first Master Geo: hath taken a voiage to the east Indies. Cad is very well in his health but hath still an ulcer in one of his ancles which hinders from going to any business only he hath learned Several parts of the Mathematicks and is thought very good at

Algebra John is Apprintice to a weaver I have nothing to write concerning the rest but that they are in health and do not discover any evil disposition we all Joyn in desiring to be affectionately remembered to you my Sister and your Children

I am

D B<sup>r</sup>

Your Affectionate B<sup>r</sup>

JAMES COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN of New York Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to be forwarded by the first ship for New York  
North America

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*Cadwallader Colden to Peter Collinson*

[Copy]

NEW YORK Oct<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1749

To M<sup>r</sup> Peter Collinson

Mercht in London

I have order'd to be transmitted to you on board the  
——— Master ——— pieces of eight & ———  
as by the inclosed Bill of Lading My youngest son is the  
only one of them who is not fixed in some kind of Business I have an inclination to make some litle trial what  
can be don in the Mercantile way & as there is no person I can have such confidence in as in you I must beg  
of you to make such an assortment of the goods in which you deal as the sum remitted at this time will permit.  
You know what is fit for the New York market & I am entirely ignorant of it I hope therefore you will excuse  
my giving no particular directions as to the kind or assortment of goods except that I would desire you to send  
one ps of a grave fashionable silk fit for the wear of an elderly Woeman & of about 9 or 10s price by the yard  
and that otherwise I leave the entire assortment to you in such kind of goods as you deal in If this trial suc-

ceed I hope some of my family may become more usefull correspondents than I have been As I am frequently out of town when the Ships from London arive please to consign the goods you send to M<sup>r</sup> George Harison but upon my Account and risque & if you have notice of this remittance before the ship arives please to make ensurance of the whole & likewise of what you shall send back

I receiv'd from Capt<sup>n</sup> Waddel some philosophical pamphlets after he had sail'd again for London but as they were not mentioned in any letter that I receiv'd I think they can only be from you or D<sup>r</sup> Mitchel I have on many occasions the misfortune to loose my letters that come in the London ships even when the Masters acknowledge that they had letters on board for me but could not tell who had taken them up for there is a combination that no letters be deliver'd into the Post Office I must therefor beg of you that if any of my friends leave letters with you for me which for the reason given I have desired them to do that you'd please to put them in the trunk with the goods & send only the letter with an account of the goods to M<sup>r</sup> Harison by the Master or in the ships bag I have been obliged to be all this summer in town & had it not in my power to gather any seeds I was desirous to do perhaps when I return to the Country which I am now preparing to do I may find some gather'd by my direction & that I shall have time to send them by the ship in which the money is to be transmitted

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*From Governor George Clinton*

Sir

I have received 3 letters from Catherwo<sup>d</sup> the first dated 29<sup>th</sup> July and is as followes, Lord Hallifax told me yesterday that he hoped you wou'd not leave M<sup>r</sup> D'Lancey your Deputy in case you came home whereupon I told his

Lords<sup>p</sup>, y<sup>t</sup> I believe you had Suspended him, He asked me if y<sup>r</sup> Exce<sup>l</sup> had a power So to do, to which I answered yes, at which he was greatly pleased, as he woud by no means have y<sup>e</sup> C. J. left to represent you, & I am certain whoever you leave behind will be supported ag<sup>n</sup> the Faction, This was a hint in case it reach'd me before I left this place,

The next was on y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> when he owns y<sup>e</sup> receipt of mine by Knox, had drawn up a Petition by Paris in favour of Smith w<sup>ch</sup> was to be delivered as soon as y<sup>e</sup> D. B. came to Toun (which I have acqu<sup>d</sup> Smith with & he is Satisfied) & M<sup>r</sup> Paris has writt to M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>d</sup> on y<sup>t</sup> head

Then he remarks upon y<sup>e</sup> conduct of the Faction by what Oliv has done lately & Sayes he was told I should have put him in Irons others y<sup>t</sup> I shoud have Sent him home in Irons, & if no Lawyers woud prosicute I should have appointed a person of my own Naming to have done it, but y<sup>t</sup> he may make y<sup>e</sup> best handle of this Insult he was to go the next morning by advice of my friends to consult M<sup>r</sup> Murrey & others & I expect their opinions by Knox, Then he tells me much the Same as Paris writt to Alex<sup>d</sup> ab<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> livilling Principals y<sup>e</sup> have crept into y<sup>e</sup> Govern<sup>t</sup> of New York & New Jers—— but come to no Resolution but hopes this affair of Oliv will Quicken them, & then he Says he incloses this to D Col. in case of your Absince who I Suppose you have appointed Le G<sup>r</sup> in room of C. J. & Sayes he shall continue his endeavours to carry the points I have recommended to y<sup>e</sup> Ministry with the Same Zeal & attention as if you continued upon y<sup>e</sup> Spot, (that he will have it I am coming)

The last is the 17 Sept when he acknowledges part of my letters by Dock Colhoun but is quite Angry with him for going round in the Ship to Save a little Money, however he is convinced at last I dont come home, but as he had not received y<sup>e</sup> most Material letters I must wait for Knox for any further particulars, & I think it cant fail of meeting with success upon Govern<sup>r</sup> Shirleys Arrival in every point, The C. J. has received letters from



S<sup>r</sup> P. which Gauls him much & certain hints to him y<sup>t</sup>  
 he will be turnd out of all. I hope you will drink D<sup>r</sup>  
 Hexin a Bumper tho' I dont say y<sup>e</sup> rest is as hearty, Adieu  
 and Compliments to y<sup>r</sup> Good family from

Your Sincere friend & Serv<sup>t</sup>

G CLINTON

I hope Catherwood will turn out  
 more Sincere than thought

by Some people

New York 6 Novem<sup>b</sup> 1749.

[Indorsed]

To

The Hon<sup>l</sup> CDW<sup>DR</sup> COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*

[Copy]

S<sup>r</sup>

[November 9, 1749]

It was with much pleasure that I read the honour  
 your Excell<sup>y</sup> did me by your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant  
 Your Excell<sup>y</sup> cannot doubt I think being fully supported  
 in the measures you have taken & I receive with Joy the  
 accounts of their being approv'd of I do not wonder  
 that it was expected that you had gon further than you  
 have don because it is easier for the Ministry to sup-  
 port you in what you shall think necessary for his Maj-  
 esty's service than to do things primarily from them-  
 selves but then as mens minds in this province are pre-  
 possest of the Chief Justice's Interest at home any thing  
 you have in your power to do cannot be so effectual in  
 curbing the insolence of the Faction as the same things  
 don immediatly from the King For while the Fac-  
 tion intertain hopes of being at last supported the same  
 things which would entirely suppress the Faction when  
 don by the Kings Authority might create disorders when  
 only don by your Excell<sup>ys</sup> Authority. However if it  
 should appear afterwards necessary your Excell<sup>y</sup> need not  
 be so cautious as you hitherto have been since your Ex-  
 cell<sup>y</sup> thinks that the head of the Faction has receiv'd ac-

counts to damp his Spirits which in its consequence will humble them that put their confidence in him

It gives me much pleasure as it must give your Excell<sup>y</sup> a great deal of Satisfaction to be assured of Mr Cath-erwood's diligence & as I suppose what you intended to send relating to him by the next ship is not gon you can now better resolve how far to go & I think you may still consult Mr Alex<sup>r</sup> further on that head because it may be of bad consequence to give him any Jealousy of your Excell<sup>ys</sup> diffidence of him & yet it may not be im-proper to give him a spur to some more diligence Mr Cath<sup>d</sup> writes to me to the same purpose he formerly wrote to your Excell<sup>y</sup> that Mr Lydeus is not apointed Secr<sup>y</sup> for Indian affairs & that what he had don in that was only from a presumption that Col Johnson would not have recommended it without your Excell<sup>ys</sup> leave so to do & that he will proceed no further with it. Lydeus is certainly not equal to that post for several reasons one of which is he cannot write common english Mr C<sup>d</sup> writes likewise that he had deliver'd my letter to the D of Bed-ford into his own hands who read it in his presence & as-sured him that he would lay it before the King. I shall write a letter to Mr C<sup>d</sup> in a few days which I intend to inclose to your Excell<sup>y</sup> for your perusal & approbation be-fore it goes

I am clearly of your Excell<sup>ys</sup> opinion that with Mr Shirley's assistance you can have no reason to doubt of your affairs being settled to your Satisfaction before next spring & I hope your Excell<sup>y</sup> will on all occasions freely lay your commands on me & I shall on all occasions shew how sincerely & heartily I am

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*From John Ayscough*

S<sup>r</sup>

FORT GEORGE 13<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>br</sup> 1749.

His Excellency desires you will mention in what you are writing, That upon Captain Marshalls Representation

to him, as well as the Commanding Officers at all the out Garrisons, of the Repairs absolutely necessary for preserving the Mens lives in the Winter, as also preserving the Stores from spoiling, by the leakings of the roofs of all of them Copies of which I have ready to go home, & to which you may refer. That notwithstanding his Excellency's Order to Cap<sup>t</sup> Marshall to apply to, and make a proper Report of all such necessary Repairs to M<sup>r</sup> De-Peyster, the Person appointed for that Service, which he accordingly did, & rec'd for Answer that he had nothing to do with it, which Capt Marshall writes to his Excellency, & that he cannot find any one that will advance any money or undertake to repair these Garrisons, which plainly indicates that this Country has no manner of Gratitude for his Majesty's goodness, in giving them stores for their own Defence and preservation, by neglecting in time of Peace, a thing of such Importance & Service in time of War.

This day his Excellency rec'd from M<sup>r</sup> Banyar, a Report on the Messages he had been sent by his Order to the Treasurer, concerning the Revenue according to his Order dated 27 June last. The Treasurers Answer was that he had not compleated the Account of the Revenue, for that the Commissioners for Fortifications, had not yet given in their Accounts to him, as they were obliged by Act of Assembly, & that one of the Commissioners was dead & the other (M<sup>r</sup> Jay) at New Rochell, & that he could not compleat those Accounts till that was settled. NB he does not now make his sore Eyes an excuse as before, and M<sup>r</sup> Jay has been in Town lately to my knowledge

His excuse for not giving the Account of Bills of Credit cancelled Emitted, according to his Grace of Bedfords Order to be laid before the House of Commons is, That as soon as the Commissioners appointed to cancell those Bills have done it he will immediately sit about it & compleat the Same as soon as possible. This Report from Bangar to his Excellency you may refer to, for it will go home by the Nebuchadnezar which will sail next

week at furthest. NB £ 1200 struck & to be cancelled 1746, now passing current, & never any Act to Suppress them.

His Excellency acknowledges yours of 9<sup>th</sup> inst I this day recd one from M<sup>r</sup> John Colden for Capt. Clinton, which he may depend on being forwarded I am S<sup>r</sup>  
with Sincerity

P S.

Your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

9 Instant I wrote to

J AYSCOUGH

you & Jno Turtle

his Excellency would have

you take Notice that the C. J.

nor Mr Murray either waited on

him to drink the Kings health on

his Majesty's Birthday though the

warning Gun had fired above half hour

before

[Indorsed]

To

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

at

Coldenham

& favour of

Capt COLDEN

*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*

[Copy]

[November 1749]

S<sup>r</sup>

I did my self the honour to write to your Excell<sup>y</sup> on the 9<sup>th</sup> instant in answer to yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> & I now inclose my answer to M<sup>r</sup> Catherwoods letter in which I have for his use recapitulated the heads of what has been formerly wrote & added somethings which I think very material as to what may be necessary to be don with the reasons for doing them. If your Excell<sup>y</sup> be of the same opinion it may be proper for you to inforce what I write by your commands to him & add what your Excell<sup>y</sup> may think further necessary & which may not have oc-



curr'd to me If your Excell<sup>y</sup> think proper to add any thing relating to me, I humbly submit it entirely to yourself Your Excell<sup>y</sup> will see that I have hinted to M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood that he may show my letter to L<sup>d</sup> Halifax My reason for it is because it may be difficult for M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood to say by word of mouth all that is contain'd in that letter with the reasoning on several parts of it He may either do this or form a memorial from this letter & the other papers he formerly receiv'd as your Excell<sup>y</sup> shall think most proper but as I have indeavour'd to make the whole as concise as I could without loosing the force of the Argument it may be easy to alter the form of expression without either weakening the Argument or running out into too great length In some parts there is some caution observ'd which requires some care to preserve If your Excell<sup>y</sup> pleases you may direct M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood to press D<sup>r</sup> Colhoun & M<sup>r</sup> Cummins to return in the spring to give evidence at Olivers trial the person with whom Cummins has left his affairs in New York can inform where he is to be found in London. I hope your Excell<sup>y</sup> need not doubt of your having every thing don to your Satisfaction by the time of the return of the spring ships if M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood exert himself as I expect he will with the assistance he now has If the Treasurer & M<sup>r</sup> Banyar answer the D of Bedfords letter I think it will be best to send only copies of the answers attested by Banyar in a seperate letter from other Business to the Duke signifying that your Excellency incloses those papers in obdeience to his command of (the date of his letter) as the best method by which you could answer it, Please to offer my Duty to M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton my wife & Daughters join in the like request & our Complts to Capt<sup>n</sup> Roddam and M<sup>rs</sup> Roddam I am

P. S. M<sup>r</sup> Alexander promised to reexamine & put the proofs which I had taken from the votes of Assembly into better order for Mr Paris's use & for that purpose I desir'd the D<sup>r</sup> to carry the Votes to him which the D<sup>r</sup> promised he would & I expect it is If it be not don I hope it is not too late still to do it

*From J. Ayscough*

16 Nov<sup>br</sup> 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency desires that you will take notice in your Letter to the Ministry of this last Account of M<sup>r</sup> Saunders' negotiation with the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada relative to the Claim of the Abnaihees being detained as they say Prisoners of War in Boston Govern<sup>mt</sup>, which Col<sup>l</sup> Wendall Letter clears up to which you may refer for a Copy of that, the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canadas Letter & Passport to M<sup>r</sup> Launieres with Extracts of Saunders's go home at the same time. You know the whole affair so shall not trouble you more on this head I am S<sup>r</sup>

with all respect

Y<sup>r</sup> sincere humble Servant

To D<sup>r</sup> COLDEN

J AYSCOUGH

*From Richard Nicholls*

NEW YORK Nov<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 1749

Dear Sir

I Received your favours of y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Inst. & was very glad to hear you got well up, & had So good a passage, & that you found your Family well. I Received the Money for the Wine by M<sup>r</sup> Monnell, for which I gave him a Rec<sup>t</sup>. I am pleased that the Wine pleases your Palate. Upon the Rec<sup>t</sup> of yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> I Immediately Sent the Letter to the Gov<sup>r</sup> I am very glad to hear that Matters are like to go So well, We hear Nothing here Every body being quite Silent. We are all in health here, & beg our Compliment to all your Family. As this goes by your Son I need not add but to Assure you that I am

Dear Sir

Your very Affectionat Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

RICH<sup>d</sup>: NICHOLLS

*Cadwallader Colden to Benjamin Franklin*

[Copy]

[Printed in Spark's "Works of Benjamin Franklin" . . .  
Vol. vii pp. 44-47]

[COLDENHAM, November, 1749]

I receiv'd by the last opportunity from New York the Proposals relating to the Education of Youth in Pensylvania I have read it with much pleasure & heartily wish the Gentlemen success that are indeavouring to promote so usefull a Design I have no objection to any thing in the proposals I am pleased with every part of them Tho I do not pretend to have my thoughts in any manner so well digested as yours are who have applied your self particularly to the subject (for from your generous attempts on several other occasions for the good of your Country I take you to be principally the Author of that performance) yet I believe you will not be displeased with any hints which may come from others tho' in themselves but trivial when compared with the greatness of the subject you have in view While you keep the Great end of Education in view viz to enable men & to incline them to be more usefull to mankind in General & to their own Country in particular & at the same time to render their own life more happy you cannot be in great danger of taking wrong steps while all of them tend to that end But I think one of the Principal things for this purpose will be in the choice of the Trustees & Rec-tor who is to oversee the Masters & Schollars to direct both their lessons & studies in such manner that they may most effectually promote this grand purpose for which they are intended & in this choice as great a regard must be had to the heart as to the head of the Rec-tor that he be a man that will have this great purpose allwise at heart. Such a person will find so much employment for every hour in life that he will have no time to take care of his own private affairs & therefore it will be necessary that he have so much incouragement by a proper Sallary as to make him easy in his private affairs



& it may not be amiss that he have likewise a small annual gratuity from every Schollar that as his care may increase the number of Schollars & the number will increase his trouble so he may find some benefite to himself in it I do not think it proper that his whole subsistence should depend upon such gratuity because that might make him too much dependent upon the humours of the Schollars or there parents It seems to me better that the least part of his incouragement should come that way But as to the Masters or Teachers the greatest part of their incouragement may come from the rewards they are to receive from the Schollars as this is likely to make them the more assiduous & while they are under the direction of the Rector & Trustees I can see no inconveniency likely to happen by it I am pleased with your mentioning Agriculture as one of the Sciences to be taught because I am of opinion it may be made as much a Science as any of those that are not purely Mathematicall & none of them deserve so much to be taught as this at least none more since it is truely the foundation of the Wealth & welfare of the Country & it may be personally usefull to a greater number then any of the other sciences For this reason I think there should be a Professor on purpose who should likewise have a contingent allowance given him for making experiments & to correspond with the noted farmers for his information For this purpose & for several other reasons I am of Opinion the College would do best in the Country at a distance from the City By this the Schollars will be freed from many temptations to idleness & some worse vices that they must meet with in the City & it may be an advantage to many children to be at a distance from their parents The chief objection to the College's being in the Country I think is that the schollars cannot acquire that advantage of behaviour & address which they would acquire by a more general conversation with Gentlemen But this I think may be remedied by obliging them to use the same good manners towards one another with a proper regard to their several ranks as is used among



well bred Gentlemen by having them taught Dancing & other accomplishments an easy carriage & address in Company & other Exercises usually taught Gentlemen Their being obliged to declame or dispute or Act plays may take of that Bashfullness which frequently gives Schollars an aukwardness on their first appearance in publick And as no doubt they must be allow'd to go to the City sometimes I am of opinion the disadvantages from the Country are rather less than what may arise in the College's being in or near the town

It is a common argument the Power & strength of a Nation consists in its riches & Money No doubt money can do great things but I think the Power of a Nation consists in the knowledge & Virtue of its inhabitants & in proof of this history every where allmost shews us that the Richest Nations abounding most in Silver & Gold have been generally conquer'd by poor but in some sense Virtuous nations

If Riches be not accompanied with virtue they on that very account expose a nation to ruin by their being a temptation for others to invade them while luxury the usual consequence of Riches makes them an easy prey.

I would not oblige all the schollars to learn latin & Greek I would be so far from making the knowledge of those languages or of any foreign language a condition of the Schollars being admitted into the Colledge that I would have all the Sciences taught in English I am of opinion it would be of greater service to the Generality of the Schollars to have the most eminent English Authors both in prose & verse explain'd to them by shewing the beauties & energy of our own language than to have the learned languages taught to them who afterwards in their course of life perhaps may never make use of them Never the less they who are design'd for the Learned Proffessions of Divinity Law & Physic ought to understand the learned languages & Merchants & others who may have business with other Nations ought to understand the French at least but in all cases our own language ought to be our principal care.

*Cadwallader Colden to John Catherwood*

[Copy]

to M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood Nov<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1749S<sup>r</sup>

I have your favour of the 20<sup>th</sup> of August wherein I perceive that you are possest with the opinion of the Gov<sup>rs</sup> design of returning home before winter I believe you must have been convinced to the contrary soon after the writing of that letter The Gov<sup>r</sup> changed his resolution on very good grounds & for substantial reasons He could not so effectually serve his Majesty by returning to great Brittain as by his staying in his Gov<sup>t</sup> & the regard which he ought to have to his own reputation likewise required it The Faction had endeavour'd to perswade the people that the Governors conduct was so much blamed that his friends could not support him & that the Chief Justice has a better Interest at court than the Gov<sup>r</sup> & had he gon people would have been confirm'd in this opinion While this opinion prevails people will adore the (in their opinion) rising sun & nothing gain'd the Faction the influence they had in the assembly so much as this opinion did & which was exceedingly strenthen'd by the Gov<sup>rs</sup> not having been able to procure any thing directly from the ministry in vindication of his conduct As they laid the hopes of success principally on the opinion which they thought they had impressed on the ministry that the People are in general dissatisfied with his Excellency's administration of the Gov<sup>r</sup> had gon without having first procur'd the Kings approbation of his conduct & some censure of the proceedings of the Assembly some grand effort probably would have been made to have given some glaring instance of the Peoples Dissatisfaction Tho peoples minds are so much changed since you went & the faction looses ground most remarkably among them that I believe the could not have succeeded in that attempt it did not seem prudent to run any risque of this kind especially while the Gov<sup>rs</sup> private affairs makes it not proper for him to return to England at this time For

as his Bills are not paid probably attempts would have been made to have distressed him personally in order to satisfy their malicious peek & resentment & others might be perswaded that the distressing him personally would be the most effectual means to get their Bills speedily paid

I think it necessary to take notice to you of the mischievousness of the Methods taken by the Faction to carry their ends viz by propogating the most vile & false calumnies among the People of his Excell<sup>y</sup>'s administration & of every one that endeavours to support the Kings Prerogative & Authority in this Province After the Faction had by these means & by the hopes they give of their success deluded the members (who you know are more ignorant & weak than people in England can imagine that men in such a character can be) they become confident that the Resolves & Representations made by the Assembly will have such force that the Ministry must think it prudent to comply with their Desires.

The whole artifice of the party consists in raising clamours among the people by base & false Calumnies in hopes that the Ministry will think it prudent to comply with the humours of the people at this time as the easiest method to quiet matters & make themselves easy from more trouble This evidently appears from the whole & every part of the proceedings of the Faction in the Assembly & which they have continued strenuously to pursue from first to last & seems to be the only thing they lay any stress on in order to gain their ends

I shall observe in general that the method they have taken to asperse the Gov<sup>rs</sup> Character is such as the Greatest Villain would take to asperse the honestest man breathing & the only means that a villain can take. Surely then no man that has the least regard to truth & Justice would take such means & no man of common sense if he has truth on his side will choose those means that are only fitted to propagate fashood & Calumny. It not only concerns the Ministry to discourage those Artifices which tend to destroy all Governm<sup>t</sup> & to bring every thing into confusion but likewise concerns every



honest man who desires to enjoy his estate & liberty in safety. For if such principls be encouraged by success who can be safe The greatest rogue the most abandon'd villain will be the greatest & most valued man where such attempts meet with success or publick approbation

And abstracted from all this reasoning & supposing there were ground of complaint I cannot see in what manner the Assembly can be justified in publishing their Calumnies & in appealing to the People while there is a regular Judge to determine the Dispute who is able to punish the Delinquents This can have no other tendency but to destroy the proper Dependency of the Colonies & to propogate & encourage the leveling principles which allready too much prevail in all the Nor<sup>n</sup> Colonies

This unmeasurable increase of popular power by which the proper Ballance of power essential to the English Constitution is entirely distroy'd in the northern Colonies is wholly owing to the Governors having no subsistence but from the Assemblies in their respective Governments I can give several instances since I came into America where Governors have for several years stood firm to the Kings Instructions in support of his prerogative & in that time waited for assistance from the Kings Ministers & after all were obliged to comply with the Usurpations of the Assembly or Starve or be sunk in debt & some of their families remarkably suffer'd on y<sup>t</sup> account without any relief from y<sup>e</sup> Crown When the assembly gain'd one point with one Governor it only encouraged them to go on with more till now a Governor in New York has nothing remaining but the act and appearance of power till now at last the King has not one farthing in this Province besides his Quitrents (which a Governor cannot touch) for supporting the administration on any exigency however urging or for the common service of the year but by an immediat application from time to time to the Assembly tho there be money sufficient in the Treasury All the publick money is in the hands of a Treasurer chosen by the Assembly & the publick money for the contingent services of the several



counties is in the hands of Treasurers chosen by the people not one farthing in the power of the King tho' in words granted to him There is at this time large sums in the Treasury The Speaker with a few of the Members can have credit enough with the Treasurer to take out what sums they please while a Governor cannot obtain a single farthing on any account All the officers & others employ'd in the publick service look to the assembly only for their reward which they know will be ample while they gratify an assembly & expect to be depriv'd of their just dues if they displease them The people are taught that the King has no power over the Militia but what is yearly given by Act of Assembly & this opinion I know prevails The Assembly likewise has taken to themselves the Custody of all the publick Gun powder & there are instances of the Speakers ordering it to the Col. of Militia without the Governors Privity & the Govr can command none of it without the previous consent of the Assembly In all money matters & Sallaries & rewards of Services the Council is become insignificant the Assembly refusing all conferences with them on those heads & will not allow any amendments to those bills

The Assembly have usurp'd so much power that it would be vain to expect that they will part with it willingly There is no instance that men willingly part with power Yet I am of opinion that there is no need of Force to recover the Kings just prerogative in this if in any of his Colonies. I am confident that if the Governor have his Sallery independent of the Assembly & proper Judges be apointed with Sallaries likewise independent of the assembly & the publick money put into the receiver Genl hands apointed by the King for that purpose the Kings just prerogative will be recover'd by a prudent conduct without much Struggle & I think I dare answer for it as to this Province The Quitrents with the Duties on Wine Rum & other West India commodities will be sufficient for these purposes. And since these Duties have been granted from year to year by assemblies for many years past it cannot be imagin'd that they are prejudicial to

trade or otherwise but at the same time I do not imagine that any assembly will be enduced to give up that power of which they are all fond by granting the duties for any number of years the Authority of Parl<sup>t</sup> must be made use of for this purpose.

I am perswaded from what I have learn'd from the Jerseys that the riots there were much influenced & incouraged by the Faction in this Province & therefor I believe it probable that if the like alterations be made in that province as is proposed to be made in this it would have the same good effect which I think they will have in this but the Gent<sup>n</sup> who live in that province are better Judges than I can be. However it seems advisable that the Duties on Wine & West India commodities be made General for all North America for thereby the trade of any particular province where they are laid will suffer less & the money arising from it in the Gov<sup>ts</sup> not immediately depending on the Croun such as the Charter & Proprietary Gov<sup>ts</sup> may be usefully applied to the building of Forts on the Frontiers towards Canada which is now become necessary not only to defend the Frontiers in case of war but likewise to prevent the Incroachments which the French are daily making on the Kings territory in time of peace & to secure the fidelity of the Indians.

I am likewise of Opinion that the sending at least one Skillfull lawyer from England to be chief Justice with a proper Sallary is absolutely necessary not only for recovering the Kings Prerogative but for the due execution of common justice for we find that men of large families & Interest in the Country especially when the people are divided into parties or when Factions prevail are never exempt from prejudices & partiality even so far that common justice often fails A Chief Justice with a powerfull family Interest is not only too hard for any one man in the Governm<sup>t</sup> but may prove too hard for the Government it self The prerogative will be very weak where the Judges are against it & resolv'd to depress it especially in a Country where few understand the law or constitution & the people in general fond of levelling principles

The Gov<sup>r</sup> has been at a great loss & the administration left under many difficulties by the present Attorney General being incapable to advise (& he is the proper person in all matters at law) & by his being incapable to carry on any prosecution for the King both by his want of knowledge in the law & by the unevenness of his natural temper It is necessary that this be remedied by the apointment of some Skillfull person & who by his other abilities may be likewise capable of making a figure in the Courts of Justice

Evident proof can be made that the Kings Service suffer'd exceedingly from the Faction in the late war You can give many instances of it The factions in this Gov<sup>t</sup> prevented the taking of the French forts at Croun point & Oniagara The attempt concerted against them otherwise could not have fail'd of success as now we are all convinced If these two forts had been taken & either held or demolished we had obtain'd an universal influence over all the Indian Nations in North America & thereby we might have extended the English commerce so far that Cannada would have become insignificant It becomes then necessary that the State of the Colonies be early lookt into in time of peace & so regulated that they may be of the greatest use in case of War. I suspect that the Ministry are not aware of the number of men in North America able to bear arms & who are in the daily use of fire arms. All the public affairs of this province are now at a Stand because the Governor thinks he cannot meet the Assembly without bringing his Authority into contempt till he knows his Majesty's pleasure on the matters in Dispute These things make it incumbent on you to press the Ministers to bring them speedily to a determination

If you think it may be of use to show this letter to Lord Halifax you have my leave to do it & if you do please to let me know his sentiments on the matters contain'd in it I shall trouble you no more at this time but to assure you that I have much confidence in your Zeal for the Governors service & Interest & that I am



P. S. You should take care to have D<sup>r</sup> Colhoun in town this winter because he may be an evidence in several cases & particularly as to that of breaking open the store houses at Albany By which the Design & view of the Faction to carry their purposes by to calumniat may be demonstrated beyond the power of Contradiction when compared with the Assembly's last address in — last & the Gov<sup>ts</sup> answer to it when he prorogued the Assembly

M<sup>r</sup> Collinson writes to me that M<sup>r</sup> Guerin scrupled to pay my son Johns Bill Please to inform me

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*From Governor Clinton to Abraham De Peyster*

[Copy in Colden's handwriting]

NEW YORK NOV<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

I have consider'd your General acct sent me this day in compliance with his Grace the D of Bedfords letter of July 19<sup>th</sup> 1749 & observe that it falls short of what by the said letter is required in the following particulars viz

1 The Acct is made out only to the year 1747 whereas by the s<sup>d</sup> letter it is required to the time of making the Acct so that in that point there are near 3 years deficiency

2<sup>dly</sup> I observe that you acknowledge the Bills remaining uncancell'd for the year 1711 are in your hands ready to be concell'd and you make no such acknowledgement as to any of the rest of the Bills uncanceled Do you mean by that difference that none of the rest of the Bills uncancell'd are in your hands for that purpose; and as to such whose funds are expired, that the Funds were deficient & that there is no fund now for the cancelling of them. I conceive that in order to comply with the said letter it ought to appear which of these is the cause of these Bills remaining uncanceled & if partly to both then how much is owing to each of these causes.



3<sup>dly</sup> I observe that of the Bills issued in 1714 & 1717 about 5/6 of the time of the Duration of the Funds for sinking of them is expired and not near one half of them sunk Do you mean that the Funds have only yielded so much as are sunk I conceive that in order to comply with the said letter it ought to appear whether its the Deficiency of the Funds or that the Bills remain in your hands uncanceled that occasions so great a quantity of those to be uncanceled & how much is owing to each of these causes

4<sup>thly</sup> The letter requires the value of the Bills in money of Great Brittain at the time of Issueing them & at the time of making up the account of which I observe that you have not taken any notice nor in any way complied with I shall transmit his Grace of Bedford your Account as you have sent it me by the Brig. Nebuchadnezar now about to sail for London with Copy of these observations on the defects thereof & as there are two other ships speedily going for London I hope you will prepare another account ready to go by them clear of these objections to this that His Grace's directions may as far as possible be complied with. I am sensible that as to the Exce<sup>l</sup> or value of these Bills in respect to Sterline at the different times you cannot give a positive answer but an Answer ought to be given to the best of your information & Judgement

To Abraham Depeyster Esqr

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*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE 2<sup>d</sup> Decem<sup>br</sup> 1749

Sr

Yesterday his Excellency held a Council, at which the Treasurer was to have attended, but did not, the Gov<sup>rs</sup> Letter of objections & the Treasurers account were laid before them, And Order of that Board was delivered to him last night by M<sup>r</sup> Banyar, to attend & give in his

reasons why he did not upon the former Order, and at the same time his Answers to the Objections in the said Letter, upon Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> Instant. He came early this morning to me, & had the Assurance to propose a modest request to his Excellency, which was that he might have Liberty to erase out of his Account he had deliver'd in, the figure 7 in 1747 & put in the figure 9 which he said would fully answer the intent of the House of Common's Address to His Majesty. I leave you to guess if it was granted, especially after the Minutes of Council, the Gov<sup>r</sup>s Letter of 29<sup>th</sup> Ultimo &c, were entered, and his Letter & Treasurers Acct Seald & packt up in M<sup>r</sup> Alexander's Box

His Excellency acquainted the Board, that the had rec'd Information, That the Traders at Oswego had made a practice lately of taking pledges of Children, from the Indians, for trifles sold them, such as Rum Sugar &c: which might be of very bad consequence if suffered. There is one boy at Bratt's at Albany now in pledge for a trifle, & which he refused to return to his Parents, on their paying the debt, & said he had a property in him, as his Father had not come at the appointed time to redeem him, & in short was attempting to send him to Long Island, to ship him off; There is another at Peter Vandreesens at Schenectady on the Same Account. This is downright Kidnapping, & if not speedily prevented, may be of the most detrimental consequence among the Indians, & what the French will be very glad to lay hold of to exasperate them against us. On this Affair his Excellency was advised by the Council, & M<sup>r</sup> Murray among them (C. J. absenti, being ill as was said) to send his Order to the Mayor of Albany to make inquiry into, & to take proper steps to obviate it's continuance, on the Report he shall make to his Excellency on the Facts.

Another Affair his Excellency laid before the Board, was the frequent desertions of the Negroes to Canada, & theirs to this Government, on the least disgust they take against their Masters. This the Gov<sup>t</sup> of Canada

complained of to Mr Saunders, & said he was very desirous to have remedyed, by sending back ours, & we his alternately, at the Expence of the sending Government. These Matters above related his Excellency desires you will think of, and give your Sentiments, as soon as conveniently you can, That he may take proper measures accordingly

I am S<sup>r</sup>

as I shall always be

Your sincere humble Servant

J AYSCOUGH

*From John Crooke*

KINGSTON Dec<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1749

Worthy S<sup>r</sup>

Last October Court at Pochkeepsie according to your request I Enquired into the affair of Wolcott your Tenant as farr as it lay in my power and finding him there and his Evidences Got them and him Sworn to go to the Grand Jury in order to Get Sackett Indicted the Grand Jury however found no Indictment ag<sup>t</sup> Sackett nor agt Wolcott and I got Wolcott Discharged from his Recognizance for which I paid 7<sup>s</sup>: and Endeavoured to Get Sackett bound over but Could not and found that Wolcott had not informed you right or Given a true State of the Case and that he had acted in My opinion Contrary to any Instructions that he Ever rec<sup>d</sup> from you, there was a Demand of above thirty Shillings Costs more before the Justice which Wolcott urged me to pay but as I thought he had Gone beyond your orders I Declined paying the same thinking that when you should be truly Informed how the Case between him and Sackett Stood you might Judge it hard to repay it Sackett before y<sup>e</sup> Justices offered to prove that he had an old field which he and his father had bin in possession of above fifty year and while he was reparing the out fence Wolcott by Cutting a brush fence thro the lott Cutt him of from the Greatest part of that lott and that his, Sacketts, Cat-



tle Getting into that part of the lott So Fenced by Wolcott were Drove into the Woods and Muzled by Wolcott) and produced the Very Strings that were taken from their Jaws wherefore I was obliged to Desist from any thing farther in that affair I found also that Sackett (as he said by advice of M<sup>r</sup> Murray) had taken y<sup>e</sup> very method in my former letter proposed to you (to witt had brought an action to Trespass before a Justice and Wolcott having Entred into recognizance I Drew up a record and filed in the Comon pleas otherwise Wolcott and his Security would have bin prosecuted on the Recognizance by what Sackett Said M<sup>r</sup> Murray was Employed by him wherefore I believe it will be prudent to Employ one of the ablest Council in New York to Consult with and I should be Glad to have a true State of the titles by which the land is Claimed on both Sides as Soon as Conveniency will permitt that I may Consider thereof and be the better able to Serve you therein

I am

S<sup>r</sup>

Your Very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JOHN CROOKE

P S

I prevailed on Sackett not to Disturb Wolcott or quarrel with him as that Could not decide the Controversy, and he promised that Wolcotts Cattle Should be pastured in that Old field in Case Wolcott did not turn out or injure his Cattle

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
one of his Majesties Council  
for the province of New York  
at Coldenham Ulster County

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*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE December 16<sup>th</sup> 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

Yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> Instant came to hand last night & this comes by the same hand to be delivered him by M<sup>r</sup> Nicolls, I suppose you did not receive the Letters &c



sent by Coll Johnson soon enough to make use of this opportunity to return the Originals I wrote to you for (viz) M<sup>r</sup> Alexanders Dr<sup>t</sup> Letter to Treasurer and Abstracts Gov<sup>r</sup> Wentworths Letter & Boundaries of his Government. these latter his Excellency wants to lay before the Council that he may be enabled to send him an answer upon the Subject Matter of it Knox is not yet arrived not one word of News stirring you may assure yourself I'll loose no opportunity to communicate, as soon as he arrives. Thursday in Council the Treasurer delivered in the following Answer I leave you to your own opinion how satisfactory, M<sup>r</sup> Alexander plainly sees the evasion & is of opinion that the Next Account he delivers in (which by order of Council is to be Thursday next) will be full as evasive & deficient as the first, & that it is a design'd thing among them for the Treasurer has ever since he was served with the Order been in a perpetual Motion from Clarkson to Murrays & I doubt not in private with the rest of the Cabal, to consult, as soon as his other Account is delivered in M<sup>r</sup> Alexander purposes to make his remarks which I shall transmit to you I am S<sup>r</sup> your very humble

Servant,  
J AYSCOUGH.

To DR COLDEN  
(Copy)

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*Copy of a letter from A. DePeyster to Gov. George Clinton*

May it please your Excellency

I have been served with a Copy of your Excellencys Order in Council of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant requiring me to give a full & direct answer to your Letter of 29<sup>th</sup> Ultimo, pointing out several defects in my Account delivered, of the Bills of Credit of this Colony pursuant to a prior Order in Council of the 15<sup>th</sup> of the Same Month in answer to which I humbly beg leave to observe. First, that had not your Excellencys indisposition prevented my seeing you, when I went to wait on you with my said account on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> of the said Month of November, to know

if the same was done so as to answer your Excellency's intentions, and his Grace the Duke of Bedfords Letter, I might then have soon compleated the same agreeable thereunto Secondly I apprehended from the purport of his Graces s<sup>d</sup> Letter & the Order of Council thereupon that what was required of me was to give an account of all the Bills of Credit, which had been created & Issued in this Colony out-standing with the Amount of the same & the Respective time when the same Bills were Issued with the amount of the said Bills in money of Great-Britain, both at the times of when such Bills were Issued, and at the time of preparing the s<sup>d</sup> Account, and also the times fixed for the Calling in, sinking, and discharging such Bills, & the Funds appropriated for that purpose. All which I humbly conceive I have complied with in my said Account, except in this, That I did not give an Account of the Amount of the S<sup>d</sup> Bills in money of Great Britain, the reason of which was; as many of the s<sup>d</sup> Bills were issued long before I had that office, and as the Exchange had been very fluctuating & uncertain in that Number of Years, & as I had not kept any particular account thereof & must have gotten my Information chiefly from others, which would have taken me up more time than the Duties of my Office at that busy time would permit. I chose rather, than to give an uncertain account thereof to be silent on that head. Thirdly I have by mistake in the head or Title of my Account, said it was made to the year 1747 instead of the year 1749, which I was lead into, as there have not been any Bills struck since the year 1747, and therefore humbly beg leave to amend that Error, although it does not make any sensible difference in my s<sup>d</sup> Account. Fourthly as to what is contained in the second Objection in your Excellencys aforesaid Letter I crave leave to observe that although I have rec<sup>d</sup> more money upon Acc<sup>t</sup> of the Former Taxes for sinking of the Bills of Credit mention'd in my Account, that what is therein said to be sunk, yet that the same Bills so to be sunk do not remain in my hands for that purpose as the other Bills of the

year 1711, But are still circulating, & have not been brought in to the Treasury to be exchanged & sunk according to the several Acts of Assembly. Fifthly as to the matters contained in the Third Observation in your Excellencys said Letter relating the Bills issued in the years 1714 & 1717 I answer that the reasons why so large a Quantity of them remain uncanceled are as I conceive owing first partly to a deficiency in the several Funds appropriated for sinking them, and therefore the said Funds were prolonged and continued to certain periods not as yet expired & partly to the Legislatures borrowing, from time to time, out of the said Funds, and also out of the Duty of Tunnage several large Sums of money Amounting to upward of thirty Thousand pounds to supply the then Exigencies of the Government, as by the several Acts of the General Assembly for that purpose will appear. And lastly I beg leave to Observe that the reason why I did not attend your Excellency on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. was because your Excellency in the Close of your aforesaid Letter was pleased to say that you would transmit to his Grace the Duke of Bedford my afores<sup>d</sup> Acc<sup>t</sup> with a Copy of your Observations on the defects thereof, and that I should prepare another Account ready to go by the next Vessells which in Obedience to your Excellency's s<sup>d</sup> Letter I fully intended to do, & wait on you therewith as soon as possible I could, & therefore thought it needless to wait on you before I had prepared the same account. I remain with the greatest Regard

Your Excellencys most o[bedient]

Servant

A DE PEYSTER

P S

Your observations on the above shall be communicated to M<sup>r</sup> Alexander I am

*not Supra*

J A[YSCOUGH]

NB Chief Justice present Thursday, Murray absent, Murray Present the time Before. C: J. Absent

[Indorsed]

To

Dr COLDEN



*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE 22<sup>d</sup> Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

On hearing it currently reported in Town (not only among the people in the Opposition, but also among the Merchant and the retailers of Liquor) that upon the Assembly's standing prorogued, to the 9<sup>th</sup> of January next, the Consequence must be, an immediate cessation of Excise & Duties, as the two Acts of Assembly will expire the first of January next, and consequently, there can be enforced no such thing as Duty on Goods imported, or Excise on Liquors retailed. Upon the report, I informed his Excellency, of what I had heard, his Answer was (as he before had told me, on my acquainting him of it) that there was still subsisting an old Act of Assembly for Laying an Excise on all Strong Liquors retailed in this Colony; Vide, Acts of General Assembly Anno Duodecimo Annae Reginae, Fol 93. which on perusing, I find there is such an Act, specifying the respective Rates of Excise, for each Gallon under fifty retailed, and further Enacted, That the Mayor & Aldermen of the City of New York, The Mayor, Aldermen and Justices of the Peace of Albany, and the Justices of the Peace of the other Counties are Authorised to let to Farm the said Excise, by Publick out Cry, Auction or Vendue, Yearly & every Year on the first Tuesday in October, or some other Day in that Week, in which the said first Tuesday shall happen, to the highest Bidder, or to the several Retailers of such Liquors. NB: these are the Express words of the Act; QUERY, if it can be let on any other day, than in the week wherein the first Tuesday in October is. In the same Act there is a Clause, for Retailers, to enter their Liquors, where it says, they shall come to the Farmer of Excise (if any be) which implyes there then was none, or to the Mayor &c: to make entry of such Liquors receiv'd, or Suffer the Penalty inflicted for such default; which I suppose, was before



it was let to farm. This Act is continued by several subsequent Acts till 1757; But if no Commissioners are appointed by Act of Assembly, (as of course there must be none on the Expiration of the Act) How or in what manner is this Excise to be collected? Both the above Acts were Annual from the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, but the Assembly last year made the Act for farming the Excise to last for fourteen Months (viz) from said first of November to 1<sup>st</sup> January 1749-50, when it expires.

The Act for a Supply to be granted to His Majesty, for supporting his Government, &c: Vide, Acts of General Assembly Anno Septimo Georgii: Fol: 195, was to continue till 1726, specifying on what particular Fund of Duties: which Act being expired, by its own Limitation, was renewed 14<sup>th</sup> April 1739, & so on from Year to Year till 1<sup>st</sup> of Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1747.

His Excellency was very easy in relation to those Affairs, depending on what you told him, that it could be of no inconveniency; But on my consulting with Messrs Alexander, Smith, the Mayor & Recorder this Morning, they are all of opinion (when they came to peruse the Acts) that the People have too good reasons for the Rumour, that is industriously spread abroad;

The Case is thus, on a Supposition that his Excellency should meet the Assembly on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January next, only to pass the two aforesaid Acts, and they should insist on not going upon Business, but as they said before they would not, till his Excellency had given a Satisfactory Answer to last insolent Resolves, this though irregular, and a meer Supposition, Yet M<sup>r</sup> Alexander is of opinion they may attempt to do it, as they have done things like it before, by renewing the subject of former Complaints after a Prorogation and may probably do it again, The consequence of which must be a further Prorogation, or Dissolution, and then though the Merchants & Retailers do not pay the Duties, (which cannot be much at this Season of the Year so few Vessells coming in now,) And both these Acts remain expired, for some time. The Loss can not be very considerable, M<sup>r</sup>

Alexanders Opinion is that the Governour should not meet the Assembly at any rate at this time, neither do I see how his Excellency can meet them, 'till he hears from home, and should the Faction make a handle of this to write to the Ministry any Complaint, they are sensible, that he has wrote them word in several Letters, that it would be of no manner of Service to meet them, till he had received their Direction how to behave in relation to their incroachments on Royal Prerogative. The Recorder says, that an Act of Assembly (in case they should meet) can be made to retrospect, But it is M<sup>r</sup> Alexanders possitive opinion it can not.

This his Excellency sends you <sup>th</sup> Express, and desires you would give your self time, maturely to deliberate on this affair, and let him have as soon as possible by the Bearer your Opinion what he can do in it. He takes it very unkind, that you hurried away so soon, that you had not time to weigh well what to advise him, in case anything should occur, by his continuing the Assembly prorogative from time to time, as he has done by your Advice, especialy as he had spoke to you upon it; And the Consequence of meeting them, before he receives full Instructions from the Ministry for his future Conduct towards them, must produce nothing but jarring & disputes, & very probably some insolent Remonstrance or Representation in answer to his last Message sent them; which very likely they have ready laying engrossed, for the very first opportunity that offers for it's utterance.

Yesterday morning the Treasurer delivered to his Excellency not in Council another State of the Bills of Credit with this only difference to 1749 instead of 1747 as it was in the last in which he reckons the Small Sum of £ 22489:13: 6 among the cancelled Bills, though you will see in the last minutes of Assembly 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1749 fol 4 & 5, that they were none of them cancelled, till the first Week in June 1748 & so on as appears by the Commissioners Account of them

Knox not yet arrived, & Bryant will not Sail till Tues-

day no News Stirring, I am with my best wishes of Compliments to yourself Lady & good Family on the approaching Festival yours

In Sincerity  
J AYSCOUGH

P S Mr Alexander is making notes for Mr C. J. Morris & Mr Paris's use about the Treasurer Ill send you a copy.

Mr Alexanders Notes on the Treasurers Letter of Decemb<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1749. & on his Account dated 21<sup>st</sup> Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1749

By comparing this Account with that formerly made up to 1747, It appears that the 2 last Columns containing the Quantity of Bills sunk, & remaining to be sunk, are the same, wherefore, as that Account to 21st December 1749, contains the Bills sunk since 1747 (whereof an Acc<sup>t</sup>: is in the Minutes of Assembly of June 30<sup>th</sup> last amounting to £ 22469:12:3) so the former account to 1747 must have contained the same Bills so sunk since. So that had the first account passed, without making the first of the Observations of Nov<sup>br</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> thereon, it might have been pretended, that not only all the Bills mentioned by that Account to be sunk, had been sunk, but also the s<sup>d</sup> £ 22469:12:3, by the s<sup>d</sup> minute appearing since to be sunk: by which means the Bills sunk would have appeared greater, and the Bills unsunk to be less by that £ 22469:12:3, than by the new account it appears they are, which seems to make a very sensible difference between the Accounts.

As to the second of the Observations of Nov<sup>br</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> it remains unanswer'd, except the denyal of these Bills being in his hands, but how it happens that they are not in his hands, whether by deficiency of the Funds, or otherwise no Answer is given.

The Answer to the third observation discovers a defect in both Accounts (viz:) of about £30,000, of Bills that have been borrowed, issued & emitted, by Acts of



the Legislature, & the Funds by which these sums so borrowed, issued and emitted were to be sunk.

The Recorder's Querys for Mr Alexander to Answer next Tuesday in Common Council.

The Questions which I conceive will be proposed are, only upon two Paragraphs, intituled an act for laying an Excise on all strong Liquors retail'd in this Colony, & passed in 12<sup>th</sup> Year of Queen Anne, & by Subsequent Acts continued to the year 1757 vide fol 89 of the Second impression.

The first is, Whether the Mayor &c: can & have power to execute the Second Section in that (viz) to let to farm the Excise for the Ensuing year, seeing that ought to have been done on the first Tuesday in October, or some other day in that Week. And as is required to give ten days notice by advertisements, before the Sale at Vendue. This Method has been laid aside by General Assembly for several Years last past, & they have by way of Vendue Sold it or let it to farm to particular persons from year to year. And made new Laws in Pursuance of such proceedings, the last of which Laws will not expire till the first of next month. If S<sup>r</sup> I may be permitted to give my opinion upon this Point; it is that they can not, because I conceive, that where an Act requires or enjoins a thing to be done on a particular or limited day, it must be done on that very day & can not be done before or after that day.

The second Question doth arise upon Section the fifth of the afores<sup>d</sup> Act. Whether upon a Supposition that the Mayor &c: cannot now Act upon the first. Query, they can or lawfully may & ought upon this Paragraph If I may be indulged my opinion, I think they cannot for this reason, because I conceive this Clause presupposes that the Mayor &c: have acted in conformity to Section the Second, & that no person appeared or offered to form the Excise.

S : JOHNSON



*From John Colden*

Hon<sup>d</sup> Sir

As I hear the Post goes down the West side of the River I flatter myself you will expect I should write by him to let you know that I am well & I beg S<sup>r</sup> that if he comes up your way you will favour me with a letter by him Two or three days agoe I got a letter from my Mother with the Stockens & one from Sis<sup>r</sup> Colden but which way they have come I know not—I think it is needless to answer them by the Post as I have nothing to say worth paying Postage for—I shall by the next opper<sup>ty</sup>—Since I have come last here I did myself the pleasure to write to you And my Sist<sup>rs</sup> I & A. by the way of N York & to my Mother by the way of Esopus by a Traveller who was to Call at M<sup>r</sup> Hasbroucks & promised to leave it with him & since that inclosed to M<sup>r</sup> Crooke one to B<sup>r</sup> Colden acknowledging the Rec<sup>t</sup> of his by Coll Johnson, I long much to hear again from home & please myself with the hopes that before long I may see some of the family here

It gave me a good deal of pleasure to hear from the Coll that Parties seemd to dye away very fast at N York & the Opponents down in their Mouths—Severals here seem likewise to pull in their horns, & I believe their hopes grow very languid—I hear S<sup>r</sup> P— wrote to the Coll by all means to endeavour at keeping in the Gov<sup>rs</sup> favour but that he wished there might be a good understanding between him & the Ch—J —w<sup>ch</sup> the C said was a Contradiction in itself & told me that he had hardly spoke to him when he was last in town—The Coll fetched up with him the new Commissions & I now hope every thing in the Courts will go on pleasantly The Old Judges are very much chagrined & I believe One of the Lawyers not less who will find his influence over the Court all spoild

I shall take care to get the Pease my Mother writes for, Hull'd ones are not to be got excepting from Coll

Johnson & he don't sell any Please to tell B Colden that I have yet got no Positive answer from the Ship Carpenters about his Pettiauger but they are to let me know after New Year whether they can do it or not Please S<sup>r</sup> to assure my Mother of my Duty & my B<sup>rs</sup> Sisters &c of my affections The family here join with me in wishing all of you a Happy New Year, & that they may be many & & enjoy'd with every blessing of Heaven is the Sincere Prayer of

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> most Dutifull

Ever Obed<sup>t</sup> Son

JOHN COLDEN

Albany Dec<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1749

Late at night & a bad

Candle

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq

at

Coldenham

ULSTER COUNTY.

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*From Thomas Wolcott*

Decem 26: 1749

Mr Colding Sir

After Hum<sup>bl</sup> Regards &c:— Sir as you are a Gentellman I have Great faith in your promises to me: as well as in your titell of the Land I now Live upon and I Cannot Creadit any other: Sir I being far of: am in fear am out of your mind: it is hard if So: & hardly worth a while to mention the Ronges I hear Suffer: but I hope to be Releaved Countinanc<sup>t</sup> & Incorriged by your Speedy favour: I Conclude that Mr Crook hath Shewed you that Sacket hath Set up his titell in Cort: Mr Crook told me that upon his Letter to your Self I should have Advice what to do: Sir I have Done a greet Deal of Labour & have Very Littell profit the Spoiler has Destroyed my Corn and Grass: and I Expect you will Defend me in making and maintaining a good fence on the Line be-

twixt Sacit and this Lot: which fence will Stand partly in his pretended Inclosur I say Except S<sup>d</sup> fence is made I can preserve Nothing Nor Live hear any Longer You told me the Last time I Saw you that I might Dow any thing within that Surveey but being full of other Labour I Could not make S<sup>d</sup> Fence to preserve my Last Crop: Now I should be Daly att work on it but that Mr Crook Enclined me to wait for your advice Now as a Child I wait for your Counsell and Releff without farder adding I Remain Your Hum<sup>n</sup> Ser<sup>tt</sup> in Exceding hast

THOMAS WOLCOTT

*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE 27 December 1749

S<sup>r</sup>

In my last <sup>th</sup> Wood Express, I wrote you word, that it was M<sup>r</sup> Alexanders Opinion, that the Excise must drop, the last of this Month; & with it sent you a Copy of Some Queries from the Recorder, to be answered <sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Alexander, which upon his considering, you will see he has altered his opinion, as by the underwritten Account. The Mayor carryed it to Messrs Murray & Chambers, who both jump in opinion with M<sup>r</sup> Alexander upon it. His Excellency purposes to have the advice of Council, tomorrow on the affair, & M<sup>r</sup> Alexander is now drawing the Preamble, and heads, for a Proclamation to be published tomorrow, which I shall copy in Order that it may not be known who made it, when it is ingrossed at the Office, for its publication. This I thought proper to acquaint you with as soon as I could; for which reason I send it by some of M<sup>r</sup> Brinkerhoffs Family, I am S<sup>r</sup> with my best wishes of many happy New Years to self & good Lady & Family

with truth

your humble Servant

J AYSCOUGH

To D<sup>r</sup> COLDEN

Mr Alexanders opinion on the Recorders Queries.

(The Questions which &c:)

I agree in opinion with the preceding answer to the first Queries.

I do not agree in opinion with the preceeding answer to the second Querie, & do not see that it is presupposed that the Mayor &c have acted in conformity to Section 2<sup>d</sup> &c:

On this point I conceive that not only the 5<sup>th</sup> Clause, but the first & sixth are to be considered.

The first Clause expressly gives an Excise on all Strong Liquers retailed, during the continuance of the Act: (viz)  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz: of Silver on every B<sup>n</sup> of Beer & Cyder and  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz: of Silver on every gallon of other Liquor retailed.

The first Clause in my opinion, makes a debt due to the Crown, on every such B<sup>n</sup> or Gallon retail'd during the Act; & did the Act go no further, I conceive it would be payable, and the officers of the Crown might take such legal ways & means, as they thought proper for compelling every retailer to pay that debt.

The sixth Clause, I think makes this Evident, for all Retailers of Strong Liquors are, upon their receiving such Liquors, to come to the Farmer of the Excise (if any be) or to the Mayor &c; in case none be; and on default, all Liquors that have not been duly entered & paid the duties of Excise are forfeited, and three times the value thereof. This they are to do whether the Excise was, or was not let to a Farmer, and at all times, and it is only the other Clauses of the Act that can excuse them from this.

When the first and sixth Clauses are considered I conceive it will be evident, that the fifth Clause has no such supposition as was alledged, but is to be put in Execution, where there shall be no Farmer of the Excise, let the cause, for there being no Farmer, be what it will.

As the Act has been superceded by temporary Acts, and as the last expires the first of January next the Retailers, and the Magistrates, who are to put the Act in Execution, may be at a great loss what to do, & inno-



cently incur the penalties of the Act, for their neglect of complying with it. Wherefore I submit whether the case ought not to be communicated to his Excellency the Governour in order to advise with his Council upon the Matter, and if they are of the above opinion, to issue a Proclamation, Notifying the Continuance of the Act to 1757. and that all Retailers of Strong Liquers, after the first of January next, are to enter & pay the Excise of all Strong Liquors by them to be retailed pursuant to the direction of the said Act under the Penalties in the same Act mentioned; And all Mayors &c: shall do the duties required of them by that Act and particularly those of the fifth and sixth Clauses thereof, under the Penalties in the same Act mentioned.

New York Decem<sup>br</sup> 26 1749

JA: ALEXANDER.

*Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton*

[Copy]

Dec<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1749

As the manner of D<sup>r</sup> Ayscough's writing to me as well as the subject of it was entirely unexpected I choose to answer it in writing to your Excellency. It was unexpected because I thought your Excellency had maturily consider'd the subject matter of it some months since at least so far that nothing of what has happen'd could have made any impression upon you but that upon a very little reflexion your Excellency would have remov'd any kind of Uneasiness on this occasion which those in opposition have & will allwise endeavour to raise whenever they can lay hold of any handle or pretence for that purpose especially if they can impose on the weakness of some of your Excellency's friends to propagate Clamours & to make you uneasy There is no doubt but that the Duty Act expires and those Duties cannot be levied any longer. But who has the most reason to complain on this subject

not the Merchants surely by their being freed from Duties & if they complain it must be to serve some other purpose Your Excellency then & the other officers of Government are the only sufferers who are thereby deprived of your Sallaries As to the Excise Act I am of Opinion that if any thing has happen'd to the prejudice of the Excise Fund by the Assemblies not meeting since Sept<sup>r</sup> last Your Excellency cannot be blamed if you thought it for his Majesty's Service & benefite of the Country that they should not meet because it was the Duty of the Assembly to frame the temporary & yearly Act by which the manner of Collecting the Excise was yearly alter'd in such manner that the Excise should not suffer in case your Excellency should not think it consistent with your Duty to give your Assent to a like act for the future or not to meet the Assembly at the time they think proper to pass a new act for that purpose Otherwise they so far by a kind of constraind attempt to deprive the King of his Negative to the passing of Acts & of prorogueing the Assembly as he shall think most for his service And I am of Opinion Your Excellency will be justified in case you refuse to give your Assent for the future to such like yearly acts because I am perswaded that the Assembly's taking upon them thus to alter the Act by which the Excise was granted as a fund to pay a large Emission of other money is the principal reason why that fund has fallen so much short in produceing what was expected from it as appears from the Treasurer's Account lately deliver'd into Your Excellency, For if I do not mistake the Excise thirty year since brought in yearly a greater sum while it was collected according to the method directed in the first & original Act than it has don at any time Since these temporary & yearly Acts took place For to the best of my remembrance the Excise of the City of New York alone between twenty & thirty years since form'd according to the directions of the original Act from a thousand pounds to thirteen hundred pounds yearly Your Excellency may more certainly inform your self from the Rec-

ords of the Mayors Court whereas the Excise of the City & County of New York the very last year was by Act of Assembly granted to particular persons by name for Seven hundred and forty pounds and the Excise last year for the whole province did let by the Assembly for not more than the City & County of New York alone and yet by the great increase of the Inhabitants & the Riches of the place since the former time the Excise if it been duely collected must have produced a much greater sum than it did then at least double. Your Excellency may [have] another reason for your refusing to give your Assent to such like temperary [and yearly] Acts for letting the Excise as thereby a Faction in the Assembly [could?] for the future have means of establishing an undue influence in all the [assemblies] by granting the Excise to their friends & to popular men at an under rate as they lately have done. And as the Excise Since the Act first granting or continueing it is still in force & any delay be made in the Collecting it which if it cannot be remedied at present as matters now stand may be justly & equitably remedied by some future Act As by obliging all Users and distillers of liquor to pay after the expiration of the temporary Act at the same time [torn] had agreed with the farmers to pay the proceeding year But Supposing the Excise Fund & the [torn] of Government should suffer a little by your Excellency [torn] hear from England they can be made up afterwards [torn] publick. Whereas if your Excellency should meet the Opposition they had in such a publick manner broke off all intercourse with the Governor besides other indignities offer'd him & continued obstinately refusing to go on any publick business and your Excellency had referr'd the matters in Dispute to the Kings determination & the Assembly had [torn] twelve days together If your Excellency should again meet them Knowing & being assured that they have alter'd their former disposition your own [torn] & Character & the Dignity of Government may receive such a



shock [that could] not easily be repair'd And as your Excellency told me that you wrote to the Kings Ministers that you thought you could not meet the same Assembly again without exposing your Authority of Governor to contempt [until] such times as you shall know his Majesty's pleasure on the past behaviour of the Assembly it may be difficult for your Excellency to excuse your Self to the King if the Assembly should continue in the same disrespectful behaviour to the Kings Authority As to the [calling of a] new assembly if I remember right Your Excellency told me that you had inform'd the Kings Ministers that you thought it must be prejudicial to his Majesty's service to call any new assembly before his Majesty's pleasure should be known on the past behaviour of the present & proceeding assemblies because before that be don the notions of Chief Justice De Lancey's Interest & the prejudices & republican notions artfully instill'd into numbers of peoples minds cannot easily be removed As to any complaints that the Faction may make to the Kings Ministers I am humbly of opinion they can be of very little weight & need not give you any uneasiness But in order to prevent any mistake such kind of complaint may be any means occasion your Excellency may send your reasons to the Secretary of State & board of Trade for your not meeting the Assembly & at the same time to press his Majesty's determination on the Matters in Dispute Or if your Excellency be straitned in time to write by this ship now going your Excellency may send a copy of this letter to M<sup>r</sup> Paris which may in a great measure enable him to answer any objection that shall be made to your Excellency's conduct in not meeting the assembly

I am sorry your Excellency should think that I was in too great a hurry in leaving New York last time I was there I did really think that nothing further remain'd to be don by me My family required my presence & return more than your Excellency knows or imagines And as to the matter which has occasioned your Excellency's being



at the trouble to send to me I am perswaded that upon a little reflexion your Excellency will recollect that it had been fully consider'd before I left the place as much as it can be now tho' perhaps your Excellency had not so particularly consider'd the Acts which expire

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*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE January 3<sup>d</sup> 1749/50

S<sup>r</sup>

If you remember I showd you once a Letter from Coll Lydius about some lands that were vacant and as it was discrib'd in such a manner that you could not comprehend it or at least thought it was in Pennsylvania Govern<sup>mt</sup>. upon which I wrote to him to be more explicit and yesterday I rece'd as follows/ viz/

In answer to yours of 19<sup>th</sup> October. His Majesty K: Charles 2<sup>d</sup> by his Letters Patent did give & grant unto William Pen the Elder all that Tract of Land in America on the East of the Delawar River from the beginning of 40<sup>th</sup> Degree of Northern Latitude to the beginning of the 43 Degree, But if the s<sup>d</sup> River did not extend so far Northward, then by the s<sup>d</sup> River so far as it does extend, and from the head of the s<sup>d</sup> River the Eastern Bounds is to be determined by a meridian Line to be drawn from the head of the s<sup>d</sup> River into the beginning of the s<sup>d</sup> 43<sup>d</sup> Degree. The s<sup>d</sup> lands to extend westward 5 degrees in Longitude, to be computed from the s<sup>d</sup> Eastern Bounds: Thus far Pennsylvania. As the Meridian Line is to be a division Line from the beginning of the 43<sup>d</sup> Degree, between the Province of New York, and the vacant Lands, the property whereof is vested in His Majesty.

Now consider that Line to extend to 44<sup>th</sup> or 45<sup>th</sup> degree of Northern Latitude & to extend Westerly 5 degrees in Longitude, which will be as far westerly as Pennsylvania, so that here it is plain a vacancy of 2 degrees

N & S. and 5 E & W. in which vacancy is now above 150 families settled on the Mohawks River and would take in Oswego & all the South side of the Lake Ontario. This I conceive will give you a true Idea of the affair; so I am S<sup>r</sup>

Yours & c:

JOHN H: LYDIUS

Your opinion on the above when you are at leisure will be acceptable to his Excellency and oblige S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Servt

J. AYSCOUGH

To D<sup>r</sup> COLDEN

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*Extracts from Coll Johnsons Letters enclosed by Gov.  
Clinton*

6<sup>th</sup> January 1749/50

I recd and Express yesterday from the five Nations, that they had recd several Belts of Wampum from the French Governour, which are to be opened at my house in a general meeting of the Sachems Wednesday next. When I have heard the News shall acquaint your Excellency thereof. The French were never so active among the Indians as at Present, while we must lay still, & only look on, not having power to do anything, which give me leave to assure your Excellency must hurt or weaken our Interest prodigiously as the Indians must soon imagine they are neglected or rather slighted by us.

22 Jany: 1749/50

I must acquaint your Excellency that most of the Indians of both the Mohawks Castles are determined (in a short time) to go to war against the Catawba's, & are to be joined by great Numbers of their Bretheren, as also by several other Nations, I have for some time past kept them from that vile Practice, Notwithstanding the French used all their endeavours to set them on, but as affairs are Circumstanced at present, it is out of my power to attempt it. However I must humbly represent

to your Excellency that the bringing about a Peace between their Indians & ours would be a thing of great importance, & the only way in my humble opinion to effect it would be to get about half a dozen of the Chiefs of that Tribe or Nation to come here, and desire a Peace with the six Nations, which I flatter my self I could persuade them to agree to, the best time would be when your Excellency was here & have it done in your Presence. I hope S<sup>r</sup> you'll pardon me for making free to give you my Sentiments thereon

WM. JOHNSON

February 9<sup>th</sup> 1749/50

*From Gov. George Clinton*

S<sup>r</sup>

By the above Paragraphs from Coll Johnson's Letters of 6<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>d</sup> ultimo you will see the necessity of doing something immediatly, for fear of loosing the Indians, the subsequent consequence of which, must be their attachment to the French Interest, who you are sensible will leave no opportunity that offers to obtain it; For which reason I desire you will consider the affair minutely, that when you come down, I may write to the Ministry upon this head, to enforce as pressingly as possible, the absolute necessity of retaining them in their alliance, though attended with inevitable Expence.

His Grace of Bedford writes me word that he can not do any thing in the Indian Affairs without laying the case before the Council, Colonel Johnson has given me frequent hints before this, that he can not maintain the Expence of the Indian Affairs any longer, and that he would be glad to drop it entirely, unless upon a certainty of being repay'd, and you must think that it is too much for me to do it out of my own Pockett, and much more so now, when I can have no probable view of being reimbursed by the Assembly what Expences I have been already at. For these & several other reasons (which I shall tell you when I have the pleasure of seeing you here) your Presence & Advice in Council are absolutely necessary, and I must and do desire & insist



that you will come down by the very first Vessel that offers; for I expect Knox will sail at furthest by the 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> of March; and as the success I have had in the Credit, not only of obtaining the Indians to declare war against our Common Enemy, with almost unsurmountable Difficulties, and the retaining them in our Interest must entirely depend upon a continuance of it. I must have the advice of Council, what may be the proper methods to represent to the Ministry on so important an affair; (And while you are absent) should I propose any ways to acquire it, most of them would be silent, or at least only hum & haw upon it, and imediatly ask why I did not send for you.

In Coll Johnson's Letter of 26<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>br</sup>, he tells me that several Yorkers & others had been canvassing for Members from this Place up to Albany (as they expect a dissolution) and working up the People to their own seditious way of thinking, among them was Robt. Livingston of the Mannor, James Livingston, John Livingston, Nich Bayard Coll. Gosbeck, and Coll Mathews, the last of which much surprizes me having allways taken him to be firmly attached to my Interest, this I thought proper to acquaint you with, that you might be enabled to give me his reasons for so ungratefull usage, when I see you. I wrote to you yesterday & enclosed a letter from Mr. Catherwood, & favours of Mr. Harrison's Friend; I have received a Letter from Mr. Sharpe, who tells me, all things go well, & hopes that er'e this time they are come to a determination in my Favour. I have enclosed a copy of his Letter, & one from the Duke of Bedford, that you may see how matters stand: His Grace's is an answer to mine, sent by Governour Shirley and by Waddel who carryed the Duplicate Oliver and his party have last fryday night riotously attacked the House of a Jew, Broke open the Door & allmost all the Windows useing most scandalous expressions I hear he is comprimiseing the matter, & in short as no justice is to be expected in this place while the distribution is in the hands of his Brother; it would be in vain for the poor people to at-



tempt to procure it, but I hope there will be soon an end put to such insolence. Mr. Catherwood by advice of y<sup>e</sup> Sharps has presented another memorial to His Grace of Bedford & Lords of Trade relating to that fellows behaviour to me & other matters before them which have been very well received Mr. Sharp was to meet one of y<sup>e</sup> L<sup>ds</sup> of Council about it. This was wrote in expectation of an oppertunity of conveyance which did not offer till this 14<sup>th</sup> to the care of Sheriff Brinkerhoff who is desired to forwerd it with speed. so you will take notice when you receive it. Sollicitor Murry advised Mr. Catherwood not to leave y<sup>e</sup> Sharps for they are by far y<sup>e</sup> best hands I could be in for interest with the Ministry Catherwood assures me y<sup>t</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Peter has underhand asked for this Gover<sup>mt</sup> for himself but was denyed, & says time will expose him to y<sup>e</sup> world & this sly push of his, has done me no disservice but this is a secret, but I am satisfied with y<sup>e</sup> person he had y<sup>e</sup> intelligence from. In one of my letters I receivd from M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood of y<sup>e</sup> 21 Octob which gives an account of Genl Shirly's arrival, with whom he says he had had some conversation & gave him a copy of y<sup>e</sup> case he has now layd again before y<sup>e</sup> Ministry which I enclose for y<sup>e</sup> perusal M<sup>r</sup> Shirley has had some conversation with M<sup>r</sup> Pelham ab<sup>t</sup> my situation he assured him of giving me all the assistance in his power but let him understand y<sup>t</sup> you are represented to him as a very disagreeable person to preside in my Gover<sup>mt</sup> & your enemies here are extreemly industrious y<sup>t</sup> character & worse it has been hinted as suspected to be a tool to y<sup>e</sup> C. J. & S<sup>r</sup> Peter, under y<sup>e</sup> colours of assisting me, by exposing y<sup>e</sup> loss of the Kings authority under my administration only or in all y<sup>e</sup> Representations you date y<sup>e</sup> Assembly griping at y<sup>e</sup> powers of Govern<sup>mt</sup> from y<sup>e</sup> time of my arrival but again they say the reason for doing it was to see how you was advisd by ye C. J. in whom I put my Confidence, but I hope these last letters I write in your favour will clear up every thing to your satisfaction & hope all will go well, but I must desir you will come down as soon as possible as it will be absolutely

necessary to carry on y<sup>e</sup> common cause especiall as Mr  
 Allexander is gone to y<sup>e</sup> Jerseys to attend y<sup>e</sup> assembly  
 & not know when he will come back. My complements  
 wait on you & family &c.

S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble ser<sup>t</sup>

G. CLINTON

To Dr. COLDEN

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK Janry 22<sup>d</sup> 1749/50

Dear Sir

Yours of Dec 20<sup>th</sup> I have with the return Corrected  
 for which I am obliged to you & shall be ready to pay  
 your fees according to such order as you shall give or  
 to your self when you come down here.

The Several pieces of Evidence you mention concern-  
 ing the North west line of Evans patent Seem very ma-  
 terial, & Should if possible be preserved. The best way  
 of preserving them would be if they were given in Evi-  
 dence at last tryal, to get some persons who were present  
 at the tryal to recollect & certify that such & such evi-  
 dences declared so & so in that tryal—the persons cer-  
 tifying may talk with the witnesses to refresh their  
 memories.—the persons certifying aught to have no in-  
 terest Either way—after they have certified it might be  
 of some use that the certifier do depose before a justice  
 of the peace to the truth of what he certified, and if same  
 young men were present at makeing the Depositions, &  
 Signing under it that they were present & saw that Depo-  
 sition made it might be of use in case of the death of the  
 certifier for that Deposition cannot be given in Evidence  
 but these persons can swear that they heard the certifier  
 depose so & so which may be admitted

Such of those points as were not given in evidence  
 at last tryal may be preserved by the witnesses makeing  
 oath to them before a justice & getting some young men

to be present as in former case, but this will not be of so great force as the former

I thought the Express to you needless especially at that time when it was under consideration whether the Excise act could be put in Execution before October & that it might & aught was the result of my opinion under my hand which it seems was approved of by the Chief justice & M<sup>r</sup> Murray, & the act has accordingly been put in Execution here

Its very possible that some artifices have been used for the purpose you mention for which reason I think it would not be amiss that you took a step down in the Spring when the river opens & your Conveniency will allow were it but for a week or ten days I have not seen what you wrote to the Gov<sup>r</sup>

My wives & my Compliments attend M<sup>rs</sup> Colden you & all your family I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servt

JAS ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To The honble

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldingham

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*From James Alexander*

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

NEW YORK Janry 22<sup>d</sup> 1749/50

I had yours of Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Some time ago but heard of no opportunity to your same nor do I know of any now, but this I sit down to write to go by the first that offers

Sackets father had a patent I think which includes part of the first nine partners tract part of the oblong & part of Connecticut I have talkt to John Sacket of it & showed him that the part of the oblong was within its launds, yet the Crown being not seized at the time of the patent nothing of the oblong would thereby pass, and he has been threatned both by Mr Smith & me for



disturbances heretofore committed by him on same four equivalent partners

That act was a *bill for preventing Trespasses* in page 40 of the book of Laws Seems a very odd sort of an act, & very able use has been made of it till Lately & During all my practise it never happened to come under my Consideration till within this year past & so you gave the occasion of that & what has been done on it, will be the best direction I can give you in the matter

John Ellison of Haverstraw sued W<sup>m</sup> Conklin (who had purchased from M<sup>r</sup> Smith M<sup>r</sup> Mackiners & me part of Cheescocke patent) before a justice of peace for cutting trees contrary to the Tenor of that act.

Mr Smith & I then considered the act & what steps we should take for the defense of our vendue, & we agreed to plead title & give recognizance to the justice as the act directs & to get a record made, & returned to Orange County Court and at that Court to enter W<sup>m</sup> Conklins appearance to save the recognizance and agreed when that was done to remove the cause by habeas Corpus to the Superior Court

Those steps which we so agreed on were accordingly taken, & the habeas Corpus was returned to last October term, when we entered Conklins appearance on the habeas Corpus

Sometime before January term M<sup>r</sup> Alsop sends a notice to Mr Smith that he would in this Term move for a procedendo in the above cause

Accordingly that motion came on Saturday last to be argued by M<sup>r</sup> Alsop & Ben Nichols for Ellison & by M<sup>r</sup> South for Conklin, when Mr. Alsop insisted that the act in question gave a special action, & appointed first a single justice, & if plea of title was before him pleaded, then it appointed the County Courts to try such Causes, but gave no authority to the Supream Court, and as the Supream Court could not trye for want of authority given by the act Therefore they aught to send the cause back by procedendo to the Court which was authorized to trye it



Mr Smith in answer insisted that the Courts of Kings bench & Common pleas being Courts of General jurisdiction had Cognizance of all Causes by their institution & that that Cognizance would not be taken away even by act of parliament without plain Express & Clear negative words, (& showed authorities to prove that to be Law) Then insisted that there was not a word on the act in question negativing or takeing away the jurisdiction of the Supream Court in this case and therefore the Supream Court had right to trye this matter, & of this opinion was the Chief justice (then only in Court) without hesitation, whereon Mr Smith moved & had a rule upon Ellison to file his Declaration in a Certain time or to be non-suited

This cause Sir paves the way I think for you to walk in —Mr Crook has already returned the record & recognizance & I Suppose Entered an appearance, there only remains for you to get Mr Crook to bring a habeas Corpus & to get a return of it to the Supream Court which sits in Aprile next I suppose you will be here before that time, when it may be agreed who Shall appear for you to fill the habeas Corpus & get the rule to Declare which I suppose Mr Sacket will not do & so he will be nonsuited I do not believe that Mr Murray is Concerned for Sacket or if he is & Sacket will proceed I hope we may get him off as being first Concerned for the oblong—I am

Dr Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JAS ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To The Honble  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldingham

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*From James Alexander*

Dr Sir

NEW YORK Janry 24<sup>th</sup> 1749/50

I heard Mr Harrison was gone before I knew of the time of his going—yours by the Express I recd & wrote

full answer to it some days agoe & sent it to Mr Nicholls to wait the first opportunity he should hearof, & so shall send this for I Do not know who braught me yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> being delivered in the shop & sent up home Just now

If you incline that your affair with Sacket should not go further than the quarter Sessions, you need not have it carried further but I take it that you'll not only be in danger there by the jury but also from the ignorance of the judges & for want of your Lawyers for your Council, if it be brought to the Supream Court tho' you are not there without some danger but I conceive in much Less, & there you can embody many of the oblong partners to assist you but not in the County Court, and I Do not apprehend that Sacket will carry the cause on when moved to the Supream Court, at Least not on his own Score; how far away he may be put on by others I cannot say—the Chief justice cannot sit in the cause because he has a Concern agt the oblong like to Sackets.

You may Depend on hearing from me what I shall hear from C. J. Morris at least so far as can any way concern this Government—I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

[Indorsed]

JA. ALEXANDER

To The Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldingham

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*From Joseph Davidson*

LONDON Jan<sup>ry</sup> 26. 1749/50

S<sup>r</sup>

I was favour'd with yours of the 8th July and have wrote to my Brother what you mention as to Mr Lithgow's affairs.

I return you most hearty thanks for your Order by Mr Collinson which I hope will come Safe to hand.

As to your Manuscript there's no Judging without

Seeing it but I would advise you not to print it in New England, if you have a mind to Preserve the Property of it to your Self for it will be immediately Sent over to London and reprinted here, and lest any part of it Should miscarry I would advise you to get the whole wrote over again. In Short wherein I can Serve you in it I'll do it, I think it would be well if it were printed on the Same type with the last Edition of Tillotson's Sermons in 12 Vols Octavo.

I am with my Very humble Service to your Lady

S<sup>r</sup>

[Endorsed]

To the Honourable

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq

at

New York

Your Very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JOSEPH DAVIDSON

*From Peter Collinson*

LOND.—Feby 5: 1749/50

I am greatly obliged to my Dear Friend for his Favours of Oct. 28-ult<sup>o</sup>—they both came together so insurance was saved for the money—the disposal of which is as on the other side I have done for you as for myself but the great Quantity of Silver comeing in sunk the price

I hope the Cargo of goods will prove Every Way serviceable Wee have endeavour'd to give a variety of such Sorts that We Send to others & have charged them as Low as possible The Bill of Loading Wee have Inclosed to G Harison as you Directed

It happens a little disagreeable at the Setting out of Our Young Merchant that all Silk goods are immoderately advanced and many Sorts of Woolen Goods are much Risen but he has this consolation that he is on the same footing with his neighbours

With the Silks is a piece of Grove Damask <sup>Th</sup>rap<sup>s</sup> that maybe fitt for the purpose you intended if not, give us a more particular Direction next oppertunity and wether

it was intended for a Gown, or a Suit of Cloths, (viz a gown & pettycoat) I did send you a pamphlet or Two Last year but I can't exactly remember

I thank you for the Two packets of Seeds the plum is a Curiosity I hope to see it bare fruit

But the Martegon or the Lillie with reflexed Leaves are my Favourite they are a very Elegant Class of plants & make a very beautifull Show in flower You have great Variety of them both with open common Lillie like flowers and with the petals reflexed, as these are strikeing objects in the Woods pray order your people to take notice of them & gather the seed — the Roots is better, but then they must be putt in a Little Box of Mould & Nail'd up

Now my Dear friend except  
of my best Wishes & be assured  
I am y<sup>r</sup> Sincere & affectionate  
F<sup>rd</sup>

P COLLINSON

Doc Mitchell Enjoys pretty good health

1749/50 By Gold & Silver <sup>£</sup> Capt. Carne as under

Jan.25		£	s	d
712 p.	8/8...containing			
	617 <sup>oz</sup> 14 <sup>dwt</sup> 5.3 3/4	164.	1.	9
5..	Moidores .....	6.	15.	
1..	Frnch Guinea ...	1.	3.	
1..	pistole & 1/2....	1.	4.	10
		173.	4.	7
	Freight	3.	9.	6
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	Drawback			169. 15. 1
11	Stuffs mixt silk..	62.	6.	1. 11
6 p.	silk & Inckl...	20.		
Wrought	silk .....	15 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	3.	7. 3
		£ 4.	18.	3
Charge of	Receiving Warrant	13.	6	
				<hr/>
				4. 4. 9

[Indorsed]

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
New York



*From Governor Clinton*

FORT GEORGE 5<sup>th</sup> February 1749/50

S<sup>r</sup>

Having just now been informed by Mr Harrison of this opportunity to advise you of Knox's arrival, & send you the enclosed; I have recd a Letter from the Duke of Bedford of 1<sup>st</sup> November in answer to one of mine of the several complaints with assurances from His Grace that I shall be vigorously Supported, if the Facts turn out as I represent them (as he don't doubt, they will) this is all the news I can send you at present, I have been hurried greatly in answering some letters by an Irish Ship that I am not able to write more. M<sup>r</sup> Sharpe assures me the affair shall be brought on to a hearing as soon as possible. I have no Letters from M<sup>r</sup> Perry

I am S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Servant

To  
Dr. COLDEN

G CLINTON

*From John Crooke*

KINGSTON Feb<sup>ry</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1749/50

S<sup>r</sup>

I recd yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant and am Glad to hear that Mr. Alexander approves of the Steps I have taken in the affair of Wolcott, and Should be very Glad also to follow his Directions in bringing a habeas Corpus if it were not attended with almost Insuperable Difficulties for me who live at Such a Distance and Cannot attend the Supream Court by reason of my living So remote I presume M<sup>r</sup> Alexander might probably Imagine that I would not be well pleased if you had got some other attorney to bring y<sup>e</sup> habeas Corpus as I was Originally imployed in the affair but far from that I would rather Recommend it to you for the following reasons

First there must be Security Given before one of the

Justices of the Supream Court (which you Shod procure for Wolcott)

2<sup>dly</sup> the habeas Corpus must also be allowed by one of the Judges

3<sup>dly</sup> there is no Certain Dependence for Convoyance of Letters the most Sure would be the post if we Could trust to his Coming here and Even thou it would be attended with Charge of postage

4<sup>thly</sup> I should be in a Continual State of Uncertainty and not know what to Depend upon

5<sup>thly</sup> there must be a proper return made to the Habeas Corpus and this being an uncommon thing and having no person to Consult with upon a proper return, I will not presume to say that I am infallable and therefore might possibly not Draw the return in the properest manner

But my Chief Reason wherefore I would Desire you to Get it Done by some gentleman in New York is that it will be more Difficult for me to Do than for one residing there and I hope you will accordingly apply to one of the ablest practitioners and not take this my answer as being unwilling or backward to Serve you in that affair for I assure you I Should be well pleased to Serve you therein to the utmost of my power and am willing whenever it shall be tryed and I am well to Give you all the assistance therein I can, If I had bin Certain who would be applyed to on the return of the habeas Corpus on your behalf I Could have made some more Dependance & wrote to him to get the habeas Corpus allowed and the Security properly taken and notice thereof Given to the other party or his attorney and an Omission of any one of those I think would Intitle the plt to bring the Cause back by procedendo or at least it might be moved and afford matter of Debate and prove a Considerable Delay to the determination of the affair I am S<sup>r</sup>

Your Very Humble Servt

[Indorsed]

JOHN CROOKE

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

one of his Majesties Council for the province of New York at Coldengham In Ulster County.

*From John Crooke*

KINGSTON Feb<sup>ry</sup> 22d 1749/50

I recd your favour of the 20<sup>th</sup> instant by Mr Hunter & had an answer lying ready to your former letter, but have had no safe opportunity Since the date thereof to Send it, I Should be Glad to bring a habeas Corpus, were it not for the inconveniences, I have mentioned in my letter and that as the whole must be transacted by Letter, the Miscarriage of any one of them might prove a Great Disappointment to you wherefore as before I have done must recommend You to Some other gentleman but if ever it Should Come to a tryal in Dutchess You may depend upon my assistance and if you do not Choose to Employ another Attorney till the return of the habeas Corpus please to lett me know Speedily & I Shall bring it, I shall forward y<sup>r</sup> Letter to Your Son by the first Safe hand I can meet with

And am

S<sup>r</sup> Your Very Humble Servt

[Indorsed]

To

JOHN CROOKE

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
one of his Maj<sup>s</sup> Councill for the  
province of New York  
at Coldenham  
In Ulster County

*From Alexander Colden*

LONDON Mar: 5<sup>th</sup> 1749/50

Dear Uncle

I reced yours of the 18<sup>th</sup>: Nov: last which gave me a very sensible Pleasure I'm sincerely obligd to you for your advice which I shall take Care to observe. the little I have seen of the World convinces me of the Truth of your Remarks, and as your Experience & extensive acquaintance must render your Observations & Advice very valuable so it shall be always gratefully receivd by me

whenever you will be so kind as to favour me with it it is no fault of my Fathers your not hearing oftener from him, his Situation so far from the Place where Ships are to be procurd makes the Conveyance of his Letters very precarious, they very often miss the Opportunity of the New York Ships & are obligd to be sent by Boston or Philadelphia Vessells this I'm afraid has occasiond their miscarrying for I'm certain he as never neglected writing. the last Letter I writ to him was to inform him of a Ship that would be ready to sail for New York in three Weeks, and by his Answer I find it was three Weeks before my Letter reachd him, however I hope his to you will be still in Time, my Compliments to my Aunt & Cousins the hearing of your Wellfare & Prosperity will be always a very great Pleasure to

Dear Uncle

Your affectionate Nephew & obligd  
humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

ALEX: COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at New York  
R—d in July 1750

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*From George Clinton*

Tuesday morning 10 o clock

Dear Sir

Corney is just come in I have the following paragraph from a perticular friend by. At this time the Plantations engage y<sup>e</sup> whole thoughts of the men in power, & your Province in perticular the State of which is at present under consideration of the Secretary the State the L<sup>ds</sup> of Council & Trade who seem to have them much at heart & no doubt something will be done to make you easie & your Successors for ever perticulars I cant enter into because they are not yet known but in general things promise well I thought it proper to let you know this & keep up your Spirits & hope every thing will turn out &



y<sup>r</sup> Satisfaction 12 Feb. C. J. Morris is extreamly diligent & has my interest much at heart he is extremely well received by y<sup>e</sup> Men in power & much depended upon & has had severall meetings with my Nephew & others upon my affairs & he tells me in his of the 12 Feb. there has been a great Council at y<sup>e</sup> Cockpit upon Plantation affairs & perticulary those of New York & Jersey what is concluded on is not as yet known but soon will as y<sup>e</sup> Lords of Trade are ordered to draw up a State of those two Provinces to be laid before y<sup>e</sup> Council together with their opinion what Measures will be proper to restore & establish y<sup>e</sup> Kings Authority Tis thought y<sup>t</sup> the Measures in General were agreed on at y<sup>e</sup> above meeting & y<sup>e</sup> report of y<sup>e</sup> board of Trade matter of Form However as I am to be consulted in y<sup>e</sup> formation of y<sup>t</sup> report, I will endeavour to have it worded in y<sup>e</sup> Strongest manner. The House of Commons have brought in a Bill to take off Y<sup>e</sup> Duty from American Iron & I am daily in conference with Some or other upon this & other American Subjects I have reason & think it will pass without much opposition

My accounts are in a very fair way Some few objections of Course I think every thing Else looks with so good an Eye notwithstanding the scandilous report spread by Young Moore ab<sup>t</sup> S<sup>r</sup>. P. I think there can be no likelihood of a DeLancey succeeding in any Shape I hope I am not to late to send this Bryant is expected in the Middle of this Month We must have News by him, but I intend Prorouging the Assembly the 8 of June next, I wont say I will come up & fetch you but beleive I shall if I can meet with such a thing as an honest Skipper so Advise we all joyn in sincere Compliments & am D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your friend & Servt

G CLINTON

An Extract from a Speech designed to be made by Andat-sago & Augagsagigta Caknawaga Indians to his Excellency Jonathan Belcher Esq<sup>r</sup> Govenor of the Massachu-

sets Bay &c Taken the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 1732 at North Hampton from the Interpretation of Joseph Kellogg Esq Per John Stoddard

We of Caknawage are Desirous that M<sup>r</sup> Lydius may dwell at the Otter Creek that we may resort to him, inas-much as he may not be allowd to Live in Canady; Many of our People are Indebted to him & will be able at the Otter Creek to Discharge their Debts We observe that the French have built a Fort at Niagara, & the English have Built another at Oswego near to the French Fort And now the French have built a Fort at Crown Point & in Answer, as the Lands at Otter Creek (as we are in-formed) Do belong to his Brittish Majesty why may not his Governor build a Fort at Otter Creek as well as the French build at Crown Point

A True Extract Examin'd

Per John Colden Clerk of Albany City

City of }  
Albany } ss.

John Henry Lydius of the City of Albany Esq. being duely Sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God maketh Oath That the Speech, of which what is on the Other Side is an Extract, was made by Andatsago & Angagsagigta Caknawage Indians in the Presence of John Stoddard & of this Deponent & that he this Deponent Did Carry the Original to his Excellency Jonathan Belcher then Governor of Massachusetts Bay And this Deponent further saith that the Otter Creek is Distant by Common Computation five Leagues North from the Place Called Crown Point where Fort St Fred-erick now Stands

JOHN H. LYDIUS

Sworn before me JACOB C TEN EYCK  
Esq Mayor of the City of Albany  
in the Province of New York

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto Set my hand & Caused the Seal of the s<sup>d</sup> City to be hereunto affixed in Albany this fourth Day of April 1750

JACOB C. TEN EYCK mayor

*Cadwallader Colden to Dr Betts*

[Copy]

NEW YORK COLDINGHAM April 25th 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

Mr Alexander has communicated to me your letter to him of the 7<sup>th</sup> of Sep<sup>r</sup> last You do me so much honour in that letter that I think my self under an obligation to give an answer to it . I have too good reason to fear that you entertain too high notions of my knowledge & ability Astronomy was never properly my study any further than as an amusement & to obtain some general conceptions of S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton's theory till lately that I entertain'd the notions of the first principles of Action in Matter & which were published in the Pamphlet you mention. I printed a few copies of that book in this place with a view only to submit it to the Judgement of some few men of learning The London Edition was without my knowledge You are the first in England that has been pleas'd to give me any particular sentiments of it & by my hearing so little on the subject I began to suspect that it had gain'd no esteem in the learned world & was neglected. However this did not slacken my pursuit of an amusement so agreeable to my own humour for after having made repeated & repeated reflections on the principles which I attempt to establish & consider'd all the objections to them which have in any shape occur'd to me I am fully persuaded that they will at last prevail & tho they may not suite the present taste of learning they will some how or other be embraced perhaps when the author is dead & forgot. You are pleas'd in the most obliging terms to incite me to go on in pursuit of what I proposed when I first enter'd on these speculations I was retired from all business & pleased my self with it in a solitary part of the world My only ambition was otium cum quadam dignitate Some unexpected incidents since that time over turn'd all the schemes I had form'd for passing through old age This S<sup>r</sup> if you knew my present



situation in the Government of this Province & the state of affairs in it since the time that the expedition was set on foot against Canada in 46 to this time you would think that I could have been in no capacity nor have any time to pursue such like amusements & indeed it has been imposible for me to do it otherwise than by short starts & with perpetual interruptions. I shall now tell you what I have don I have revised what was before published made it more methodical by deducing the Theorems more consequentially from the first principles I have corrected some errors which had slipt into the performance from my not being able at once to divest myself of the commonly receiv'd prejudices & which have been generally assumed as maxims in Physics I have explained my experiments more fully & endeavour'd to put the whole in a clearer light for the perception of others & I have added some new theorems.

I have so much pleasure in the pursuit of these speculations that notwithstanding of the multiplicity of business I am engaged in I have applied the Principles of Action to the motion of the planets & from them deduced the phenomena of their motion as the necessary effects of the Action of the powers which put the planets in motion & regulate their course in their orbits And it is from the ratio of the force of these powers at the several distances & directions of the planets motion which necessarily arise from these causes that I form the Equations for determining a planets place in its orbit at any time without considering the properties of the curve which it describes Besides the pleasure which the mind receives by perceiving in what manner all the phenomina arise as necessary effects of the first causes it gives in my opinion a much easier & more expeditious method of calculating these Equations than can be had from the properties of the curve, at least so far as I understand the methods now in use

Tho in forming Equations I do not consider the nature of the Curve which a planet describes yet it evidently follows from the principles which I assume that a



single planet moving round the sun or a planet which never comes within the influence or within the sphere of Action of another planet as I choose to speak must describe a perfect Ellipsis & that the apsides of its orbit will remain fixed

What I am going next to tell you I am very sensible with what danger I say it is that S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton's Theory of the planets motion is not perfect No man I believe was so cautious & so accurate as he has been in all his Enquiries In a hundred instances wherein I have suspected him to have slept ninety nine I have found were my misapprehensions not his Yet after repeated examinations I am confident you will join with me in opinion after I shall be able to submit my Theory of the planets motion to your Judgement I expect likewise that you will find something new in that part of Astronomy to which you at present apply viz in the Theory of Comets. Some things have occur'd to my thought which I have not observ'd in any author. I have told you that I have had no time to pursue my amusements but by starts & with frequent interruptions & therefor what I have don must require a very carefull revisal when I shall be more at leisure before I can suffer it to go abroad

If S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton had not applied his system of the mutual attraction of bodies to a minute Explication of the phenomina in the heavenly bodies it could never have been receiv'd among Philosophers by reason of its appearing at first sight so unphilosophical & so near akin to the occult Qualities which had been so universally exploded. His success made me think it necessary to examine the Principles of Action in matter with the Phenomina with something of a Like accuracy lest I should be like too many short lived writers who attempt to establish general systems upon some superficial appearances of congruity between their systems & a few phenomina I have on my principle form'd Equations for the Earths orbit & carefully compared them with M<sup>r</sup> Flamsteeds observations of the Sun in the year 1690 in all parts of the orbit & the result fully answer'd my warmest

hopes I chose the year 1690 because he has a greater number of observations in that year & I believe made with greater accuracy than in any other I have taken a method which will show the conformity of my Theory & Calculations with his observations whatever the refraction of light at the several altitudes be

Some time since I was vain enough to imagine that I might be able to give a new Theory of the moon but I am now more sensible of the difficulties which attend the investigation of such a complicated motion. My imagination in the application of this doctrine has run out so far on different subjects that it would require a long life to bring my thoughts into proper rank & order on paper I am now in my Grand Climacteric both my imagination & memory begin to flag & my health will not permit much application of mind at any time. I can therefore only hope to be able to give some hints to you or some other that may perhaps be of use in preserving a work that I have no hopes of compleating no not in astronomy alone unless I were in such circumstances as to have all other cares removed & should likewise enjoy a better state of health & vigour of mind than is to be expected at my age

However I hope (if I preserve my health) to be able to have the general theory of the Planets motions prepared before this time twelve months together with the method for forming Equations

Before I conclude I must beg of you to inform me of any errors or mistakes or observations which you have observ'd in the pamphlet which you mention This is one of the best services that a friend can do to another & will lay me under strong obligations Mr Collinson takes care of any letters for me I am  
To Dr BETTS University College Oxford

*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE April 30<sup>th</sup> 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

Yesterday his Excellency rec'd y<sup>e</sup> enclosed and desires that notwithstanding he gave his Reasons to the Ministry two years since drawn up by you for suspending M<sup>r</sup> Horsmanden ab officiis, which I remember I copied, and which M<sup>r</sup> Sharpe told M<sup>r</sup> Guerin were sufficient as he wrote the Governour word.

The first was the narrowness of his Circumstances, then the refusing to attend him to Albany, on a sham pretence of the Rheumatism, when requested, as most of the Councillors had gave some or other evasive reasons, and when there was an absolute necessity of a Number of the Council to be present at that Treaty, which was of such Importance, as plainly appeared by the Success obtained, in drawing the Indians from a state of neutrality, into actual Hostillities; and his not only directing but even altering or omitting several particulars in the Entries of the Minutes of Council, & likewise taking the Book of Minutes from the Secretary's Office to his own house, and lending it to Clarkson for his & others of the Faction's perusal; and being the Compiler & Publisher of the Scandalous and Sarcastick papers, against his Excellency's Administration at that time. Also his Insolence to the Governours Person, and his perserverance in not acknowledging his Faults, though the C. J. did all he could to prevail on him to do it (or at least told the Governour so) & actually blamed him for his obstinacy, which had he complied with, I heard the Gov<sup>r</sup> say he would not have took any more notice of it, and of consequence would have prevented his Suspension

This his Excellency desires you will be very full upon as you will see by M<sup>r</sup> Catherwoods Letter and send it by the very first opportunity, that I may copy it & send it to



be in readiness, in case it may be wanted to lay before His Majesty in Council and for M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood to make a proper use of it, though his Excellency imagines, it is only a formal dropping of Horsmanden, and that nothing more will be done in it.

As to suspending him from being third Judge and Recorder, that is undoubtedly his right to do, by the very words of the Charter, it being in his power only to appoint or remove those officers, and so would have you be very particular on those heads, for it is very probable, that the Ministry imagine those offices are from the Crown (as at home) and not from the Governour, and in Short were they to send him word to restore him to them, he would take no notice of it.

Cornee in the Nebuchadnezar is not yet arrived but hourly expected as Meznard is at Philadelphia, & two London Ships at Boston. Capt. Maisteron is at the Hook.

A Son of Coll Moores brought apiece of News from Philadelphia (as he says from some of the Passengers) which I believe will gain no more Credit with you, than it does with his Excellency, so M<sup>r</sup> Catherwoods of 15<sup>th</sup> Feby takes no notice of it, which must be the time Meznard saild, (viz) That S<sup>r</sup> P. Warren was to have the Government of New York, with the Jerseys annexed, and that he had been talking with Gov<sup>r</sup> Thomas about his house at Trenton (but this was with an If he got either). However the Story is well enough adapted to keep up the drooping Spirits of the Opposition and I make no doubt that no use that can be made by propagating it, will be suffered to be lost, but much rather encreased by them, till time will convince them of their mistake.

I have been copying his Excellencys reason for suspending M<sup>r</sup> Horsmanden, & with submission must think they are too general, & not particular enough to him, by the digressions on the Assembly; & as M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood presses it to be in the strongest manner, I believe the heads I have pointed out here will give you sufficient



matter to strengthen them I ask pardon for dictating  
and am S<sup>r</sup> with the greatest sincerity & respect

Your very humble  
and most obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>

To Dr COLDEN  
P S

J AYSCOUGH

Her Ladyship seems impatient about the money for  
the Lands

*Copies of Letters concerning H.M.S. Greyhound*

NEW YORK 8 June 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

I am as sorry for the unhappy accident by a shot from  
his Majestys Ship the Greyhound as you or any other can  
be I have ordered the officer who commanded on board  
at that time to be put under an arrest, that he may be  
brought to Tryal according to the Laws & Discipline of  
His Majesty's Navy, but I must complain that the Gun-  
ner mate (as I am informed by the purser of the Grey-  
hound) whom I sent on Shore to give Evidence at the  
Coroners Inquest is committed to Gaol by your Warrant,  
this may affect the Discipline on board his Majesty's  
Ships and every Officer's authority, in such a manner as  
you must be sensible of it I must therefore desire that  
he be immediately released, and if you or any other  
person can give me information of any offence that the  
Mate has committed he shall be brought to a Tryal for  
the same according to the Laws and Rules of his Maj-  
esty's Navy, and for your further Information I inclose  
a Copy of a Clause in His Majesty's Commission to the  
Governor of this Province relating to offences committed  
on board His Majestys Ships of War. I must S<sup>r</sup> beg your  
answer speedily to this. I am S<sup>r</sup>

Your humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
ROBT RODDAM

To the Honble  
Chief Justice DE LANCEY

## Memorandum

The Second Letter I delivered to Justice De Lancey, his answer was that he could not deliver up the Gunner's Mate upon a Mear Letter from the Captain, that the Man was committed regularly, and would consider whether it was proper to give him an answer or not

JNO LIGHTBURNE

---

9th June 1750 at 8 in the Evening.

S<sup>r</sup>

Altho' I told your Servant who delivered me your Letter dated this day, that it required no Answer, yet on perusal I observe you are of Opinion that you have acted consistent with your Duty, so far from making any doubt that your thoughts were such, I believe it, But S<sup>r</sup> your Warrant was issued and the Gunners Mate committed before I had the opportunity of informing you of the Clause in His Majestys Commission to His Gov<sup>r</sup> of this Province, therefore I must expect & demand that you deliver up to me the Gunner's Mate, (who was then actually on Board and in pay of His Majestys Ship Greyhound) in order to his being tryed if charged with any crime committed on board His Majesty's Ship pursuant to the Directions in the said Clause in His Majesty's Commission to his Governor the articles of War and statutes made for that purpose for the observance of His Majesty's Navy

ROBT RODDAM

To the Honble JAMES DE LANCEY Esq

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S<sup>r</sup>

I recd your Letter yesterday evening and for your information will acquaint you that upon complaint made to me by Coll Rickets that as he was sailing in his Pleasure Boat with his Wife and Family being between Nutten Island and the great Battery his maid servant was killed by a shot fired from on Board His Majesty's

Ship Greyhound: And your Gunner's Mate having on his Examination before the Coroner of this City and County confessed that he fired the Gun I thought myself obliged to sign a Warrant to commit him to Gaol in doing this I am persuaded I discharged my office

I am S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

To ROBT RODDAM Esq  
capt of His Majesty's Ship Greyhound  
New York June 9<sup>th</sup> 1750

JAMES DE LANCEY

S<sup>r</sup>

I recd your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> instant at Night, the next day was Sunday and I could not See the Coroner till yesterday's Evening the Morning being foul I did not go to Town till late this afternoon, upon my sending to the Coroner he shewed me the requisition taken before him by which I find the Gunners Mate is charged with the Murder of Elizabeth Hibbins committed within the City & County of New York and therefore I can not now comply with your demand to deliver up to you your Gunners Mate but must let him remain to be delivered by due Course of Law. I am Sorry this Accident has given you so much trouble, it is like to give me more, as it is a case of great Consequence & requires great consideration It shall meet with all the Attention in every Circumstance of it, that the case deserves from S<sup>r</sup>

Your most hum<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

JAMES DELANCEY

12 June 1750

To ROBT RODDAM Esq

*From J. Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE June 18<sup>th</sup> 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

by the enclosed Messages and Letters you will perceive the evasive Subterfuges of Ch. J. I have shewn

them to Mr Alexander, who is much pleased that he persists in his obstinacy in direct opposition to the Governor's Commission and doubts not but on a proper Representation of the Facts this may be a finishing stroke to him, as such proceedings after so sufficient notice as the Copy of the Clause in the Gov<sup>rs</sup> Commission, can not be reckened consistent with good Behaviour. His Excellency desires you will represent it in its proper light as strong as possible he desires you will search for the Duke of Newcastles Letter of 3<sup>d</sup> October 1747 wherein he orders himself and Go<sup>vr</sup> Shirley particularly about maintaining the Indian Expence incurred solely on that Letter as his chief Authority for it. I have shewn the letters to M<sup>r</sup> Smith who is of M<sup>r</sup> Alexanders Opinion I hope you your Lady and Miss Colden had a good passage up My best respects wait on them & your self & am S<sup>r</sup> with Sincerity your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

J AYSCOUGH

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*Colden to Clinton*

[Copy]

COLDENHAM June 19<sup>th</sup> 1750

Inclosed your Excell'y has my thoughts of what may be proper to write to his Grace of Bedford & to the Lords of Trade It may be likewise proper to write to the Admiralty not only as you are Governor of this Province but an admiral in his Majesty's Fleet to inform them of the Proceedings in this Province on the late unhappy accedent as they by a shot from the Greyhound As the proceedings in this place may greatly affect the authority of the officers & the Discipline on board his Majesty's ships in the Colonies & render the observance of the Instructions which the Captains receive for preventing illicit trade difficult if not dangerous to them & for their further information resort to the Copies of the Letters you wrote to his Grace of Bedford on that oc-



casion (to be inclosed for their use) & to Capt<sup>n</sup> Masterson who while here had some opportunities of observing the Disposition of the People I am still in hopes you will have good News by the first ship which arrives after the Kings being gon abroad I am of opinion that the Chief Justice will release or deliver up the Gunners Mate next court on his pleading to the Jurisdiction & thereby excuse his former proceedings But this Your Excell<sup>y</sup> is not to trust to nor on such expectation to delay your giving the proper information because it is probable the C J will write to his friends on this subject & your Excell<sup>y</sup> ought to guard against misrepresentations Your Excell<sup>y</sup> I suppose will leave the C. J to proceed as he shall think proper without any interposition on your part unless he proceed to condemnation in which case you have the power of reprieving

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June 1750

As a small vessel having a pendant flying was passing the Greyhound with a brisk Gale of wind the commanding officer on board (in the absence of the Capt<sup>n</sup>) endeavour'd to bring her to by firing some shot. the last of which unhappily kill'd a woman on board the vessel. This made a great noise in the town of which they who have at all times been most clamorous against me endeavour'd to take advantage to my prejudice as Capt<sup>n</sup> Roddam the commander of the Grey hound is my son in law A number of them met at the Cart & horse a Tavern where the heads of the Faction have usually made their rendezvous & spent the whole night together in drinking C J D among them as I am inform'd & I believe truly to consult how to make the best use of this incident for increasing & confirming their popularity. The Coroners inquest being met the next day Capt<sup>n</sup> Roddam at the desire of [space in MS] order'd several of his men on shoar to give such information as should be desir'd & to convince the people of the town that he had no inclination to skreen the person who gave the

offence from Justice at the same time he put the Lieutenant who commanded at that time under arrest

The Gunners mate was one of them who went a shoar who inform'd the Inquest as I am told that the Lieutenant pointed the Gun & that he by the Lieutenants order put the Match to the Gun On which the Inquest found the Gunners Mate Guilty of willfull murder the C J committed him to Jail for murder but before he had seen the Coroners inquest as appears by his letter to C R of y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Capt<sup>n</sup> Roddam being inform'd of this desir'd by two several letters that the Gunners mate might be deliver'd up to him that he being in his Majesty's service & pay if charged with any offence committed on board his Majesty's Ship he might be tried according to the laws & statutes made for that purpose Capt<sup>n</sup> Roddam inclosed in his letter a Copy from the records [of the] Province of a Clause in his Majesty's commission to the Gov<sup>rs</sup> of that Province whereby all offences committed on board his Majesty's ships are exempted from the common Jurisdiction of this Province & which directs in what manner they shall be tried Notwithstanding of which The Chief Justice refused to release or deliver up the Gunners mate I have don nothing further in this affair than to order the attorney General to be serv'd with a Copy of this clause & that it be likewise printed in one of the News papers to quiet the minds of the people who were exasperatd by the clamours of the cabal This is a short & true account of the Facts so far as is come to my Knowledge. I beg leave only to make some observations on them

His Majesty's commission to the Governor of this Province is constantly published on every Governors arrival at his taking the Administration upon him and is likewise put on record It is the foundation of all authority in this Province whereby the Judges the officers & all other persons are obliged to take notice of it & cannot plead ignorance of any thing contain'd in it

It cannot be doubted but that his Majesty by his prerogative has power to declare the extent of all Jurisdictions in America to fix the Limits & bounds of them The

stream of Hudson's river is the Limit of Jurisdiction between New York & New Jersey The Grey hound was riding in the stream of that River when this accedent happen'd by a shot from that Ship. It is true however that Col. Montgomerre formerly Gov<sup>r</sup> of this place erected the Town of New York into a city & County & extended their Jurisdiction to the west side of Hudsons river opposite to the Town which was afterwards confirm'd to them by act of Assembly but as the same clause was in Gov<sup>r</sup> Montgomery's commission exempting all offences on board his Majesty's ships it is thought that no power or Jurisdiction granted by virtue of that commission can give cognizance of offences committed on the water & on board any of his Majesty's ships

2 His Majesty's ships of war are it is presum'd sent over to the Colonies not only for their defence but likewise for the support of his Majesty's Authority in cases where their assistance may be wanted & for the more effectual putting the laws relating to trade in execution for which purpose the Commanders of his Majesty's ships of War in the Colonies usually have instructions in consequence of which it has been usual for his Majesty's ships to stop Vessels under sail by firing when it was thought proper to search them on suspicion of illicit trade neither can such illicit trade in many cases otherwise be prevented

3 I am persuaded that not the least evidence was or can be given that the commanding officer on board the Greyhound or any other person on board that ship had any Malice or ill will to any person on board the Vessel in which the woman was killed And as to the Gunners Mate it appears from the evidence given (as I am inform'd) that as he did not point the Gun he could not tell how near or far from that vessel it was pointed & that he put the Match to it after he had receiv'd his superior officers command for so doing

4 Since the Coroners inquest has found the Gunners mate under these circumstances guilty of Wilfull murder it shews the Disposition of Juries in this province



with respect to persons employ'd in his Majesty's service on board his ships of War and that if they are to be subjected to the ordinary Jurisdiction on shore all military discipline & authority of the officers on board must be dissolved

5 In case a C J take it in his head to extend his Jurisdiction to places persons or offences exempted from his Jurisdiction it is not in the power of a Governor in the present situation of affairs to restrain him without endangering the peace of the Province & of throwing all into confusion

6 The present C J pretends to hold his Commission during good behaviour & that he cannot be removed but by being found guilty of misbehaviour in due course of law, now suppose he in the present case be thought guilty of misbehaviour in open contempt of his Majesty's commission & authority yet it seems no wise probable that a Jury of this Country would find him guilty much less when he sets himself at the head of a popular faction in opposition to the administration with design. to weaken his Majesty's authority & to encourage those principles which derive all authority as to the Militia as well as otherwise from the representative of the people in assembly as shall in some measure appear from the min. of Council of the [blank in MS] where the advice of Council was principally directed by the opinion of the chief Justice & of M<sup>r</sup> Murray the only two Lawyers at the Council table & that the King cannot execute his Power of the Militia otherwise than by some act of Assembly for putting it in execution it may not be in the power of a Gov<sup>r</sup> to restrain a C J acting in this manner however dangerous to the Royal authority the Gov<sup>r</sup> may think such usurpations to be & therefore I am humbly of opinion that the present case deserves your most serious attention & when notions are instilled into the minds of the People that the executing any power unless they be enforced by their consent in favouring despotic Principles & destructive of the Liberty of English subjects thereby to render his Majesty's officers odious



to the people in the execution of their duty when these things I say are consider'd & some other things which I have formerly represented your [Lordship] will perceive that

I inclose Copies of the clause in his Majesty's Commission to the Gov<sup>r</sup> of this Province whereby all offences committed on board any of his Majesty's ships of War are exempted from the ordinary Jurisdiction in this Province

2 of the Mittimus by which the Gunners mate of the Greyhound was committed to Jail

3 of two letters from Capt<sup>n</sup> Roddam to Chief Just. DeL

4 C J D answers to those two letters

5 Min. of Council of (Orders to be given to Col. Johnson relating to the militia)

[NOTE—See The New York Gazette revived in the Weekly Post-Boy, No. 386, June 11, 1750—EDR.]

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*From B. Franklin*

Sir

PHILAD June 28 1750

I wrote a Line to you last Post and sent you some Electrical Observations and Experiments. You formerly had those Papers of mine out of which something has been taken by M<sup>r</sup> Watson and inserted in the Transactions: If you have forgot the Contents of those Papers, I am afraid some Things in that I last sent you will be hardly understood, as they depend on what went before. I send you herewith my Essay towards a new Hypothesis of the Cause & Effects of Lightning etc. of which you may remember some Hints in my first Electrical Minutes. I sent this Essay above a 12 month since to D<sup>r</sup> Mitchel in London, and have since heard nothing of it, which makes me doubt of its getting to hand. In some late Experiments I have not only frequently fixed unwarm'd Spirits, by the Electrical Stroke but have even melted small Quantities of Copper Silver & Gold and not only melted

but vitrified them, so as to incorporate them with common Glass; and this without any sensible Heat; which strengthens my supposition that the Melting of Metals by Lightning may be a cold Fusion. Of these Experiments I shall shortly write a particular Account. I wrote to Mr. Collinson, on Reading in the Transactions the Accounts from Italy and Germany, of giving Purges, transferring Odours, etc., with the Electrical Effluvia, that I was persuaded they were not true. He since informs me that Abbé Nolet of Paris, who had try'd the Experiments without Success, was lately at the Pains to make a Journey to Turin, Bologna & Venice, to enquire into the Facts, and see the Experiments repeated, imagining they had there some Knacks of Operating that he was unacquainted with; but to his great Disappointment found little or no Satisfaction; the Gentlemen there having been too premature in Publishing their Imaginations and Expectations for real Experiments. Please to return me the Papers when you have perus'd them.

My good old Friend M<sup>r</sup> Logan, being about three Months since struck with a Palsey, continues Speechless, tho' he knows People, and seems in some Degree to retain his Memory & Understanding. I fear he will not recover. M<sup>r</sup> Kalm is gone towards Canada again, and M<sup>r</sup> Evans is about to take a Journey to Lake Erie, which he intends next Week. M<sup>r</sup> Bertram continues well and hearty. I thank you for what you write concerning celestial Observations. We are going on with our Building for the Academy and propose to have an Observatory on the Top; and as we shall have a mathematical Professor I doubt not but we shall soon be able to send you some Observations accurately made. I am, with great Esteem & Respect Sir Your most obliged

Hum<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

P. S. If you think it would be agreeable to M<sup>r</sup> Alexander, or any other Friend in N York, to peruse these Electrical Papers, you may return them to me thro' his Hands

C<sup>r</sup> COLDEN Esq.

*From George Clinton*

Sir

I have your favour of 19<sup>th</sup> Inst but came to late for Capt<sup>n</sup> Masterson, but there is severall Ships going that I shall send it bye & hope to have y<sup>e</sup> opinion on y<sup>e</sup> last letters before y<sup>t</sup> time. I propose setting out for the high lands about the 5<sup>th</sup> of Next Month as a Chear is a very troublesome thing to carry on board an Albany Sloop. I desire you will get y<sup>e</sup> Easiest Waggon you can as I am determined to make you a Visit at Coldenham about the 10<sup>th</sup> but now Dear Colden let me have no Fuss nor any at y<sup>r</sup> Sons for my Sloop is made so convenient that I shall lay on board, only the night I intend to stay with you, this is my firm resolution & so advise

Yours  
G CLINTON

NEW YORK 29<sup>th</sup> June 1750

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*From Elizabeth De Lancey*

WEST CHESTER July 2<sup>d</sup> 1750

Dear Sir

I have had but once the pleasure of hearing from any of the family since I saw you which was a short line from sister Jane, I long much to hear more particularly, I wrote to sisters Colden & Alice a fortnight ago. We have all continu'd in health this Summer except poor Sammy I cant say he is yet well, he has sometimes the fever & has again got a hard cake in the side of his belly I should be very glad my Mother would please to send me some cardnus for him I can get none here I would repeat what you prescrib'd for him formerly for that ailment I hope my little Aly is in health & behaves well I find my anxiety for their well behaving increase as they grow up & it will be one of the greatest blessings

I can enjoy to see them taking right courses, & answering the ends for which they were created, it is my sincere prayer to my Creator to endow me with such a competency of Wisdom as to be able to perform my duty to my Children (as well as every other duty of my life) in such a manner as shall most conduce to his glory their good & my own happyness & I hope he will be pleas'd to make me the happy instrument (however weak) of their happiness I am much pleas'd with the Dialogus on Education & have got through the first volume reading such things will I hope be of service to me, but nothing will conduce more to my advantage this way then your thoughts & advice which take greater impression then any else & I hope Sir you will be so good to favour me with them as often as your leisure will permit The Children all join in their duty to you their Grandmama Aunts & Uncles Please to give mine to my dear Mother & my love to my sister & Brothers & to my dear little Girl, if I can I will write to Sister Jane Mr De Lancey went to York this morning so that I cant say for him & can say no more for my self but that I am as I shall allways endeavour to be Sir Your most dutyfull

& obedient Daughter

ELIZ. DE LANCEY

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*From G. Clinton*

FORT GEORGE 19<sup>th</sup> July 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

On my arrival I found a Letter via Philadelphia from Mr Catherwood in which he informs me that Mr Holland & Coll Johnson are both appointed of the Council (Mr Holland prior to Coll Johnson). No mention of Mr Alexander's being restored which as I imagine has made Mr Rutherford and him change their note as to a Dissolution C Justice Morris is at Bath & Mr Catherwood



writes me word L<sup>d</sup> Hallifax is there too, so that nothing can be done in any other Affair till he returns from Bath. Therefore I must desire you will set out immediately on the receipt of this that I may consult with you for I have already gave private notice to Coll. Hicks Morriss & the persons who are in my interest in Kings County that I proposed a dissolution, this being an affair that requires your Advice to me as well as talking to mes<sup>rs</sup> Alexander & Rutherford I beg you will be expeditious and am S<sup>r</sup> Your very hum<sup>ble</sup> Servt

VERTE

I have other things to impart to you from the Lords of Trade that will engage you to be here with all Speed for Gerretse will sail in a Week or ten days at furthest and you must answer it Therefore I must press your coming on the receipt of this, if only for three or four Days I am

Your very humble servt

G CLINTON

If you are not here by the 24 I shall prorogue them to the 3d July

[Endorsed]

To Dr COLDEN

to be left at Capt Coldens

at Newbery

Ⓜ Mr Bogardus

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*From J Ayscough*

August 8<sup>th</sup> 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

Inclosed I send you up the Certificate for the Lands taken up in my name please to sign & return it y<sup>e</sup> first opportunity Capt Roddams Gunner's Mate was found guilty of Manslaughter C. Justice on the Bench notwithstanding it was the Opinion of every one the Day before when the Point of Law was argued before him by M<sup>r</sup> Smith & M<sup>r</sup> Murray that the former's assertions were so strong that it must have went in favour of the

Commissioners of the Admiralty to take Cognizance of it. Mr Smith was ready to prove his assertion by the Books but it was not allowed C. J. saying he was fully persuaded that it was cognizable in Banco Regis & so proceeded to Tryal. He pleaded His Majestys Pardon. I hope to get you by the time you come down the arguments on both sides for y<sup>e</sup> assistance in reporting the case home. Oliver entered his appearance the first day of the Term.

His Excellency desires you will not by any means fail being down by the 28<sup>th</sup> at furthest that he may be prepared to meet the Assembly, which he proposes to do fair & softly, & see what that will do with them.

If you have got Bruin to execute the Declaration of Trust pray send it & the return of the Survey on those Lands I am S<sup>r</sup> with all due respect & good wishes to Self Lady & family

Yours in Sincerity

J. AYSCOUGH

To  
D<sup>r</sup> COLDEN  
[Indorsed]

On His Majesty's Service

To  
The Honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at Coldenham  
To be left at Captain COLDEN'S  
at Newberry

To  
The favour of  
Mr BENTHUISEN

---

*From Clinton to the Lords of Trade [?]*

[In Colden's Handwriting]

I suppose the force of the Argument on this case turns upon this that if this accedent had happen'd in any river in England as it did in Hudson's river the Kings Bench could have taken cognizance of it But I must leave it to your Lord<sup>shps</sup> judgement supposing the case in England to be whether the consequence be right that because it was in the one case nothing the Cognizance of the Kings Bench therefor in the other one was

within the Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of New York This consequence to me seems to suppose that the Clause in his Majesty's commission restraining the Jurisdiction of the ordinary courts in New York is illegal & that the C J of New York has authority to interpret the Royal Commiss<sup>n</sup> in such manner as to declare any part of that Commiss<sup>n</sup> to be illegal which he shall judge so & consequently not to be observ'd To what length such a power claim'd in the Colonies may go your Lord<sup>shps</sup> can best judge.

According to the notions which the present C J entertains of his own power perhaps if he think that it will at any time serve his purposes he may take it in his head to commit the Gov<sup>r</sup> for putting in execution some part of the powers given him by the Kings commiss<sup>n</sup> which the C J may Judge to be illegal I should not have thought it inconsistent with the Dignity of a Plantation C J to have suspended his judgmt in a matter touching the Royal Prerogative in a point of so high consequence till the opinion of the Judges in England could have been obtain'd on a true state of the point but this I believe is inconsistent with this Gent<sup>ns</sup> temper & views I must observe to your Lord<sup>shps</sup> that in my opinion the placing guard ships in the Colonies is not only to defend them from the sudden attack of any ennemy or of pyrates but likewise to preserve them in their dependance on the Crown for which purpose they can be more effectually employ'd than land forces It is likewise evident that they are placed there to prevent illicit trade & it is well known that there is a continued illicit trade carried on between this Province & holland & the dutch colonies to the prejudice of the Commerce of Great Brittain which can not be so effectually prevented as by the men of War & if they cannot fire a shot at any vessel without being subject to a trial by a Jury in this Country it is not probable they will be of much use for that purpose. The Custom House officers are not sufficient for preventing such trade & if they were there is so good an understanding between them & the merchants which is

evident There is something in C J De Lancey's conduct from the beginning of this affair worth observing that he himself committed the Gunner's Mate tho' it was more properly the Duty of the Coroner before whom the evidence & examination of the Mate was taken & that it is not usual for a C J to act in these matters where it can be don as properly or rather more properly by inferiors that his own Judgement may be left the more free in consequence of such commitment

D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

I just now rec<sup>d</sup> this from M<sup>r</sup> Benthysen who left York yesterday. M<sup>r</sup> Harrison left this yesterday morning & M<sup>r</sup> Burges is to go oft this Evening or tomorrow morning with Taylor we are all well

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*From John Ayscough to John Colden*

Sr

FORT GEORGE August 16<sup>th</sup> 1750

I am to acknowledge the receipt of yours without date with the Evidences of the Boundaries, His Excellency approves of your diligence in procuring them, he desires you will forward the enclosed to Coll Johnson, it comes by a Soldier Thomas Willis, so beg you will advise me of the receipt thereof

I am S<sup>r</sup>

To JNO. COLDEN Esq  
[Indorsed]

Your very humble Servt

J. AYSCOUGH

To  
JNO. COLDEN Esq  
Clerk of the County of Albany  
at Albany

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*A Draft, in Colden's hand, of the speech made by Clinton Sept. 4, 1750 is here omitted, as it can be found in the Journal of the General Assembly of N. Y. vol. ii, p. 276-277.*



*From James Alexander*

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

PERKINSBURG October 1 1750

I have the pleasure of yours of yesterday and am obliged to you for the news you thereby Communicate, which I am well pleased with. As to the Extraordinary Expense on the recommendation you mention, I shall be ready freely to pay it let the Success of it be what it will.

I am Sorry to hear of Such a petition as you mention to the Treasury, and if it did reflect on M<sup>r</sup> Clinton we may guess from what quarter it has come, & have them to thank for the delay of payment of our bills

Our assembly here began to Decide about what the Council have all along insisted on concerning the quota bill for laying taxes, viz to tax Lands according to their value & not their quantity of acres as they have all along insisted, but a Majority have Stuck to their old text, & I hear the bill is to come to the Council tomorrow where I doubt it not it will be amended & sent back to them as formerly, and thats all the business thats like to be done this Session, wherfore I hope to See you at New York by the End of this week—I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most  
humble Servant

JA: ALEXANDER

[Indorsed] To  
DOCTOR COLDEN att  
New York

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*From B Franklin*

PHILAD Oct. 11. 1750

Sir

I have learnt by different hands that D<sup>r</sup> Mitchel continues in a bad State of Health, which I suppose

obliges him to drop his Correspondencies. 'Tis a Loss to us all.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Bertram and Evans did not go their intended Journey to Lake Erie but are both safe at home. Mr Weiser is just return'd from Onondago, and gives a melancholly Account of the declining State of the English and encrease of the French Interest among the Six Nations. I hope the Interview intended with them by your Government will be a Means of securing their Attachment to the British Nation. Me thinks a great deal depends on you in this important Affair.

I wish you all the Satisfaction that Ease and Retirement from Publick Business can possibly give you: But let not your Love of Philosophical Amusements have more than its due Weight with you. Had Newton been Pilot but of a single common Ship, the finest of his Discoveries would scarce have excus'd, or atton'd for his abandoning the Helm one Hour in Time of Danger; how much less if she had carried the Fate of the Commonwealth.

Forgive this Freedom and believe me to be with the sincerest Esteem and Affection, D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your obliged Hum<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

P.S. All my Electrical Papers are transcribing for a Gentleman in Boston to whom I shall send them <sup>th</sup> next Post thro' your Hands. If you please you may keep them a Week or two to peruse; and if you find any thing in them worth Copying, tis at your Service. My last Paper, which you have not yet seen, is the largest, and the fullest on the Nature & Operations of the Electrical Matter.

[Indorsed]

To  
The hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALADER COLDEN Esq  
New York

Free  
B FRANKLIN

*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE 24<sup>th</sup> October 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

I had the pleasure yesterday to hear of Miss Jenny's Amendment, on which I heartily congratulate you and all the good Family

His Excellency is at a perfect stand to know how to proceed, in relation to the Treasurer's obstinacy, in Contempt of the Order of Council for him to deliver in his Accounts, tho' at the time he proposed himself. What can be done? Whose Officer is he? (for I have looked the Book of Commissions quite through and can not find his recorded) What coercive power can compell him to obey? These things premised, What a Dilemma must the Governour be in; for which reason he desires your Advise what steps are proper to be taken. The Speaker some days since in private Conference told the Governeur that the Moneys in the Treasurer's hands, for Contingent Services and Salaries &c do not amount to above £ 10,000 and that the debts are near £ 20,000. I am S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Servant

J AYSCOUGH

Ship Grace from Bristol arrived this Morning no News 7 weeks passage. Saw two Snows about 300 Leagues off Heard that Knox was in the Downs a day or two before he saild 3<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>br</sup> The Treasurer delivered in his Accounts yesterday to the Council

His Excellency desires you will send down a draft Letter to D: of Bedford & Lords of Trade, upon the Subject matter of the inclosed proceedings, between the Speaker & him; and to observe that the Reason of his accepting of his Salary in this manner was, not having recd any answers from home to his Requests upon those heads, tho' so often repeated, & the urgent necessity a Number of poor people had for their money (at this

Season of the Year) due for entertaining french & Spanish Prisoners of War

By what I can hear the Assembly are likely to comply with his Excellencys Answers to the four Proposals. I am S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble &  
obedient Servant

3<sup>d</sup> November 1750

JNO. AYSCOUGH

Fort George

No London Vessell yet arrived, we hear via Boston Knox put into Falmouth

[Indorsed] Rec<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>

To

The Honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

at Coldenham

To be left at Capt. COLDEN's

at Newbery

---

*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency orders me to acquaint you that your account by your Son of Miss Jenny's indisposition gives him much concern for her, your Lady and self, as well as upon his own account, for he wants your advice now as much as ever he did at any time, but will endeavour to do the best he can without it; Corne arrived this day in 7 Weeks Knox & Dean saild 14 days before him so that they may be hourly expected, On Board of Knox is M<sup>r</sup> Alexander's Mandamus, he hopes you will dispatch the Draft Letter to D.B. and Lords of Trade for Waddle will sail in three weeks at furthest, S<sup>r</sup> P: appear'd strongly in opposition to M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>d</sup>rs restoration I am S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

J AYSCOUGH

[Indorsed]

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN

at Coldenham

To be left at Capt. COLDEN's

at Newbury



*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK Nov<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1750

Dear Sir

I rec<sup>d</sup> yours by D<sup>r</sup> Bard, w<sup>t</sup> copy of Rhodes Island Comm<sup>n</sup> of which I have sent Copy to C J Morris I have yours of Nov<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> by your Son Cad. who tells me there's an opportunity of sending to you this day

Cornee arrived on Sunday last, Several are positive they saw 3 or 4 Letters to me on the Coffee house table among his Letters but none but one has come to my hand but one from Barclay, on business the rest all intercepted

I am informed the Gov<sup>r</sup> got his Letters Safe from the Capts own hand otherwise I doubt not he would have been served in like manner. I am told that the Gov<sup>r</sup> has a Letter from Catherwood acquainting him that the Mandamus for my restoration is in Knox who put back into Plymouth

I am glad to hear your Daughter is in so fair a way of recovery, I intend not to go out of town till next March unless I am call'd to attend another Jersey assembly. I Don't believe that will meet till about Christmas. I heard some hints that M<sup>r</sup> Belcher would then call it The best assistance in my power I shall give your Son Alexander in the affair he is to come for

the issue of this assembly here was very uncertain till this morning—for about a fourt night agoe the Speaker waited upon the Gov<sup>t</sup> w<sup>t</sup> some verbal propositions concerning the Debts & Support which the Gov<sup>r</sup> was to consider of & give answer to—his Excellency by advice of his friends answered by a request to give the propositions in writing & he would give his answers in writting upon honour not to be made publick on Either side as well as my memory can Serve the Substance was that all the Debts & Salaries to 1<sup>st</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> last should be paid to the persons to whom due by name in the bill, upon their receipts to the Treasurer-assembly men etc

by Speakers wrnt as usual & agent by Speakers re[cei]pt to Treas<sup>r</sup>

That from 1<sup>st</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> last another bill should provide for the Support of the Current year as usual

That tho they might Claim deductions by reason of the Duties being lost for a Long time yet upon his Consenting to the other things they would make no deduction & allow for the building the Stables.

That he should pass all the acts they should propose for the benefite of the province

Upon receipt of the proposeals his Ex<sup>ty</sup> took time to consider them & gave answer in writting

The Answer his Ex<sup>ty</sup> gave by advice of his friends was he desired an account of the amount of the debts etc to 1<sup>st</sup> of Sep<sup>r</sup> & an account of the funds by which they were proposed to be paid, when which he was Satisfied in he would give further answer

The Speaker accordingly brought Compensations of both amounting with the last years salarys etc. to about 20,000 with which his Excellency Seemed Satisfied, he then gave answer to the propositions in writting to this purpose

That as to what's due for Salaries before Sep<sup>r</sup> 1 be paid by the Treasurer on wrnts as usual but as to the Debts etc that they be paid as proposed, That the Salaries be paid in the first place; and that if Sufficent be not to pay the Debts by Same Short day to be named, what shall remain unpaid for that reason shall have interest after that day

The Second agreed to  
third agreed to being made the allowances as agreed to the first year Excepting the £ 1000 & particularly the £ 150 per annum for voyage to Albany the same years did not go

4<sup>th</sup> agreed to along with other bills  
The Speaker after brought answer in writting that the first part of the answer to 1<sup>st</sup> agreed to, but as to paying interest *not* for it Lookt Like a Diffidance in the funds

3<sup>d</sup> agreed to only for years he went

To this his Esq returned answer, in substance, tho' no probability of a Defi[cienc]y yet it would be to the honour of the Gou<sup>r</sup> to make Such appearance of interest & give present Content to the Creditors & Encourage people hereafter to trust the Gov<sup>t</sup>

As to voyage to Albany relied on their agreement the first year; on their 3<sup>d</sup> proposition that no deduction should be of what had been usual; which this was before & since his coming besides Express agreement, That the years he went the £ 150 did not pay half the Expense he was at & did not doubt on 2<sup>d</sup> thoughts they would allow it

Yet tonight it Seems they were nettled at insisting on the £ 150 yearly, & ordered all their members to be summoned to attend this morning, & Doctor Ayscough has been a little while agoe with me & told me that the interest & £ 150 a year are both at last agreed to, & that the Speaker had been with the Gov<sup>r</sup> full of Satisfaction to acquaint him of it, & thereby all Difference removed

this I believe will now give a Speedy End to the Session, & it seems to me if they stand to their agreement will be as well as could reasonably be Expected I have no Coppies of these things & the draughts haveing been [ma]de by Coll Morris or Mr Kennedy to which I proposed some amendments which were approved of I think of nothing further to add but that I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

[Indorsed]

To The honourable  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at  
Coldingham

Your most obedient &  
most humble Servant  
JA. ALEXANDER

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*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE Nov<sup>br</sup> 19th 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency orders me to acquaint you that Capt Knox is arrived & has brought Mr Alexanders Manda-



mus, on which he sent me to him to know when he would be Sworn into the Council. his Answer was whenever his Excellency pleased; but that at present he was so bad with the Gout that he was afraid to come abroad; but hoped soon to be able

Chief Justice Morris writes to the Governour that all things have a fair Prospect but as almost every Board are gone out of Town, & the King not returnd, he must not expect any Determination, till they return to Town, so that he can not have any News till Bryant arrives. The Dover & Nebuchadnezar will Sail Soen so that his Excellency waits with impatience for your Draft Letter to D.B. & Lords of Trade.

Things go on tolerably in the Assembly Mrs Roddam continues still very weak but I hope on the mending hand all join in Compliments to Self and good Family with S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JNO AYSCOUGH

Dr. COLDEN

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*Note by Colden [Partly torn]*

Is a kind of Domestic plant for tho' it be very commonly found allmost in every plantation in North America from Virginia to New York both included & perhaps farther & propagates it self without any kind of Culture yet I never observ'd it growing in the woods

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*Drafts relating to the Proposals—partly in Clinton's hand—partly in Ayscough's.*

The 19<sup>th</sup> Octob I Sent for y<sup>e</sup> Speaker to tell him I had ordered the Smith & the presents but I did not think y<sup>e</sup> presents Sufficient I thought there Should have been another Smith from this to other things at last he told me he should be glad to Enter into some discourse with



me about the Pay<sup>mt</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> Debts & Salaryes to prevent any misunderstandings when the Bills are brought in I told him I should be very glad to do any thing as far as was in my power to do anything to make y<sup>e</sup> province Easier, upon which he said it was w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>t</sup> Intention he mentioned y<sup>e</sup> manner of y<sup>e</sup> payments & so 5<sup>th</sup> that the House was inclined to make this Bill for all the Salarys & Debts due to y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> of Septemb. Cash to be paid by the Treasurer by each ones receipt only

2 was that the House was inclined that all the Salaryes for the future should be by Warrant except y<sup>e</sup> Agent which Should be by the Speakers receipt to y<sup>e</sup> Treasurer Then I askd him whether they intended to Name y<sup>e</sup> Sever<sup>a</sup> Officers he Said y<sup>e</sup> House was inclind to do so & to put everything upon the Same footing it was when I came I then asked him what Fund did they intend to pay the Salarye & Debts out of for I did not find they had any inclination to raise any money by Tax He said by y<sup>e</sup> Treasurers accounts he was 10000 in debts to y<sup>e</sup> Province, upon wh I told him Johnsons & mine came to more then y<sup>t</sup> & I was affraid if it was to come to it it would be first come first Served & neither Johnson or I should have any chance of being paid but I would consider of y<sup>e</sup> whole as I did not expect any Such discourse & give him an Answer y<sup>e</sup> Tuesday following which is when they meet. The 25<sup>th</sup> I Sent for him to tell him I thought the best way to prevent any mistakes between us would be for him to give me in writting what the Assembly purposd & I would give an answer in writting which he consented to & the next day brought in the four Articles & then adjourned to y<sup>e</sup> 31 where I sent the Answer at y<sup>e</sup> bottome of y<sup>e</sup> four Articles & expected to have heard Something from y<sup>e</sup> Speaker this day meaning y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Novemb. He has just brought me an acct of ab<sup>t</sup> 20,000 due but I know he has stretched a point in Some Articles upon it we have agreed to give him the following answer to his other Proposals

I agree to all y<sup>e</sup> Articles allowed as debts due from y<sup>e</sup> Colony, be put into one Bill and I will give my Assent

to the Bill: Provided the Several Officers of y<sup>e</sup> Governmt, be immediately paid on passing the bill, by Warrants drawn in the Usual manner and y<sup>e</sup> other Sums allow'd to be paid the Several persons in the manner you propose; But if the other Debts are not paid in Six Months Legal interest to be allowed till paid

To y<sup>e</sup> Second Proposal I am willing to assent to y<sup>e</sup> Bill in the manner you propose If I have y<sup>e</sup> same allowances that you gave me the first year I came to y<sup>e</sup> Governm<sup>t</sup> (except the £ 1000)

As to y<sup>e</sup> first part of the third Proposal there can be no real use in mentioning of it; as to y<sup>e</sup> building of Stables for y<sup>e</sup> Governour having been always done at the Publick Expence, I could not in y<sup>e</sup> least imagine y<sup>e</sup> House would have had any objection to paying Such a Charge

The fourth Proposal is assented to, at the time of passing y<sup>e</sup> other Bills. 2<sup>d</sup> Novemb

[In Ayscough's hand]

It is proposed to put all the articles allowed as debts due from the Colony into one Bill, under which Head are consider'd the allowances to the several officers of the Government to the first of September last. These articles to be paid by the Treasurer on Receipts given him by the Persons to whom paid

2<sup>dly</sup> It is proposed that the allowances to the several officers of the Government, from the first of September last, to the first of Sept<sup>r</sup> next be put into another Bill and made payable to the Respective Officers by Name on Warrants issued by the Gov<sup>t</sup> in Council in the manner that has been used both before and ever since his Excellency came into this Government. The Articles to the Agent for this Colony, & to the Clerk & Doorkeeper of the Assembly, to be by orders & Certificates signed by the Speaker as usual. The Treasurers allowance to be retain'd in his own hands

3<sup>dly</sup> Tho' it is conceived just and reasonable that a Deduction should be made from the allowances usually made to the Governour to the Amount of the loss sus-

tained by this Colony in the Fund arising by Duties on Wine &c from the first of January last to the 11<sup>th</sup> of September following; and tho it is also conceived reasonable to refuse any allowance for building the Stables the Assembly having neither encouraged the Building thereof Yet on consenting that things shall continue in the Manner heretofore practised, as now proposed; a full allowance will be made without any Deduction & Provision also for the Expence of Building the Stables 4<sup>thly</sup> It is likewise expected that such other Bills as are or shall be prepared for the Benefit of the People of this Colony be also assented to

S<sup>r</sup>

To the first Proposal you must make it certainly appear to me in what manner the Money is to be raised for paying those Debts, and from what Fund, when that is done, I will give a further answer to the other three proposals

NB: I expect a full answer in Writing

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*Cadwallader Colden to George Clinton*

[Copy]

[Nov. 22, 1750]

S<sup>r</sup>

I receiv'd by my son a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood wherein he says your Exc<sup>y</sup> is blam'd for suffering the Country Duties to drop & the Militia Act expire It surprised me that M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood had not at first sight an answer to this ready since the manner of Granting the support of Gov<sup>t</sup> is the foundation of all your Excell<sup>ys</sup> complaints & which in all his applications he aught to have had continually in his eye as the principal thing to be redressed

I have thought it therefor necessary for me to give an answer to it as soon as I can & to inclose it open to your Excell<sup>y</sup> for your approbation & to be forwarded as



your Excell<sup>y</sup> likes it I am glad to hear that the Sessions are like to end as well as could be hoped. My Daughter Jenny last Saturday had a very bad relapse after I thought her in a fair way of recovery Please to make my Duty full complements to M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton

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*From George Clinton*

FORT GEORGE 27<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>br</sup> 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

Yours of 22<sup>d</sup> Instant I received this day from M<sup>r</sup> Nicolls, & was in hopes I should have had your Remarks upon the Proceedings of the Assembly, with Reasons why I was obliged to receive my Salary in the manner I have

I prorogued the Assembly last Saturday (after publishing above thirty Acts) to the first Tuesday in April

K[n]ox is arrived but not a word of News, every office being shut, and the Ministry all out of Town, so that we can expect none till Bryant arrives; M<sup>r</sup> Alexander was sworn of the Council yesterday, C.J: said he was sorry for it, but it could not be hope [helped]. I heartily condole with you on your Daughtes Relapse, & Your Son Peter Delancey has been very much in danger from a Pleurisy. M<sup>rs</sup> Roddam is on the mending hand I am

S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Servt

G CLINTON

Dr. Colden.

PS

Capt. Wentworth waits for this I am as much Surprised as you can be at Catherwood about what you say & have wrote him word of it & shall send him yours by Y<sup>e</sup> very first oppertunity

[Endorsed]

To

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at Coldenham

Capt Wentworth



*Cadwallader Colden to Clinton*  
[Copy]

COLDENHAM Dec<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1750

I have the honour of you Excell<sup>ys</sup> of the 27<sup>th</sup> of last month I expected a particular account in what manner the affairs of the Assembly concluded what was don in the matters your Excell<sup>y</sup> recommended to them & of which I still remain ignorant as to particulars. Without this I could not form what your Excell<sup>y</sup> desir'd of me as I wished to do it however I have don what I can with the general informations I hear but as I know nothing of what is don for the Indian affairs I can say nothing as to them tho' they seem to be a material part of what may be proper to write to the D of B This however may be don afterwards in a letter by it self & now your Excell<sup>y</sup> has very good assistance I hear the Assembly has complied with your Excell<sup>y</sup> on what relates to your own private concerns I very heartily give your joy of it not only for the immediat use it is of to your self & family but that by this it will appear that the real ground of dispute with your Excell<sup>y</sup> was not from any thing personal with which they blamed you but from your Endeavours to support the Kings authority against their incroachments & that now the Ministry may see that your Excell<sup>y</sup> can be as well as to your own private Interest with an assembly of New York as any other Governor if you would consider more the pleasing of them than your Duty to the King. And that upon such terms you doubt not to have the same men who exclaim'd against you to represent your Excell<sup>y</sup> as a man of the highest honour & integrity that is so long as you serve their purposes & that you are persuaded that every other Governor who shall succeed you will be used in the same manner unless his Majesty interpose effectually to this purpose I think may be proper to write to M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood for him to talk tho' I now hope it may not be so prudent in your publick letters

Your Excell<sup>y</sup> can with a better grace now leave your Gov<sup>t</sup> when you think it proper than you would have don while these clamours subsisted I cannot understand what M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood would be at by his writing to me as he has don nor can I guess with whom he corresponds in New York who gives the information he pretends to have.

I heartily congratulate you on M<sup>rs</sup> Roddams recovery My daughter Jenny is better but so very weak that the least misstep may be fatal to her I thank your Excell<sup>y</sup> for your information of Peter De Lancey I only heard of it by J Hardenbergh half an hour before I receiv'd yours I am

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK Dec<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1750

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

I received the favour of yours of Nov<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>a</sup> with the papers in it & heard of no opportunity Since to write to you on Saturday last I received also yours of Dec<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>a</sup> and am glad to hear thereby that your daughter grows better. You judge right of the wellcome I had on my return to the Council, I cannot Describe it better than you have done

I am oblidge'd to you for Communicateing that paragraph of M<sup>r</sup> Catherwoods Letter concerning my Son I showed it to my Son, and from what past on that occasion I believe he is entirely innocent, he rec'd a Coppy of the paragraph in order to write to M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood upon it, which he immediately did, & showed it to me & I think its in Such a manner as to Leave little Doubt with M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood but that the Sale has been invented to vex him & save Dissention

I shall send to Ch J Morris Coppies of your Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood & of the other paper herewith & also

so much of your Letter as relates to the paragraph of his which I sent you & those papers I send him, & also concerning my Son w<sup>h</sup> my Sons Letter open to be Sealed by him & delivered to M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood

I have dined once with the Gov<sup>r</sup> at the fort & once at Rutherfordards, my wife & I was with the Club on fryday night last at the fort & the Club is to be at my house on fryday next, the Gov<sup>r</sup> seems very chearfull and in good health, you have been his toast every one of those three times that I have been in Company with him, on ffryday night M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton found fault with his toasting of you for that you were her Constant toast I believe all things stand well for sending your son down and makeing the application you proposed I have been thinking it would be more Safe to leave the Commission to you & son and Survivor than for you to Surrender in favour of your Son, for as the most healthy are often Soon Snatcht away by Death, if such a thing should happen in your Life you might have reason to repent the Surrender many offices in England are granted to two persons and the Survivor and why yours may not be the Same way I See no reason

As to the opinion of the manner it may be best to apply to the Gov<sup>r</sup>; I think it will be best by a Letter to the Gov<sup>r</sup> on that head only wrote so as to be Laid before the Council, either Surrendering your office in favour of your Son if you choose to Continue your former mind, or rather I think it better to request the Commission for yourself & Son and Survivor and as to all other affairs at the Same time, they to be in a Separate Letter

But yet Least Such Objections Should be made as cannot be answered against giving the Commission to you & Son and Survivor, I think it were best to Send by your Son a Letter of Surrender not to be Delivered or mentioned to the Gov<sup>r</sup> but in the above case, which I think cannot well happen

Machet arrived on Saturday last from London, I had no Letter by him, but the Gov<sup>r</sup> had one from Chief



Justice Morris, the ship had 14 weeks passage & Sailed in a day or two after Cornee so that there can be no news by him

Cornee talks of Sailing the 15<sup>th</sup> & Dean about Christmas for London

I know of no opportunity to send this by and intend immediately to Send it to M<sup>r</sup> Nichols to go by the first opportunity. I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most affectionat & most  
humble Servant

JA: ALEXANDER

[Endorsed]

To The honourable  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att  
Coldenham

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*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE 11<sup>th</sup> December 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

Yours of 5<sup>th</sup> Instant his Excellency received and orders me to acquaint you that 24<sup>th</sup> ultimo I wrote to you by Capt Benthuyssen two Letters, the first dated that day the other 3<sup>d</sup> Instant which I suppose were not come to hand, when you wrote yours, the first Letter was to have been sent by one or two opportunities, as you will see by the directions, but waited for News from Home, and from the Assembly here; The only material Point on the Carpet now, is the Indian Affairs which have been twice before the Council, and it is determined at that Board that his Excellency should write to all the Governours upon the Continent that have any Indian Nations dependent on them; or in alliance with them, to invite them or Commissioners from their respective Governm<sup>ts</sup> to join in a Treaty with the several Indian Nations, the first Week in June next at Albany, in order to fix an Alliance with them and the Six Nations & defeat the art-



full designs of the French in inviting them to wage War one with the other, as the only means to withdraw them from us, and make them dependent upon Canada & their Indians I am sorry to hear Miss Colden is reduced so weak, but hope proper methods will soon reinstate her, Mrs Roddam still continues very weak. I am S<sup>r</sup> with my best wishes and Compliments to the good Family

Your very humble Servt

J. AYSCOUGH

PS

His Excellency has received a Letter 8<sup>th</sup> Inst by Machet from C. J Morris who says nothing will be done in his affairs till the King comes home & that there is an Order coming from the Regency for Parks the Gunners mate to be delivered up, in order for his coming home to give Evidence at Mr Howe's Tryal & we Suppose a Smart Reprimand to the magistrates for committing him in pursuance of the Civil Law

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*Colden to Alexander*

[Copy]

COLDENGHAM Dec<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1750

S<sup>r</sup>

My son Alexander now waits on you in hopes of perfecting what I have several times talkt of to you I enclose my letters to the Gov<sup>r</sup> open that you may peruse them & I must beg the favour of you to deliver them with your own hand that in case the Gov<sup>r</sup> have any scruple or receive any Jealousy you may remove them I do not think it advisable to send the letters otherwise least he think proper to advise with Ayscough or Williams or to speak of it to any about him before it is passed in Council & if possible the Seal to it there is the same reason that this office be during good behaviour that there is for the clerks of the Counties & its being so

can as little affect the affairs of Gov<sup>t</sup> The season of the year & the necessity of my son's returning speedily may be made use of for dispatch My letters to M<sup>r</sup> Kennedy & M<sup>r</sup> Rutherford are not to be deliver'd till after you have talkt with the Gov<sup>r</sup> & he is resolv'd on what I request It may even be proper that they be not deliver'd till the evening or morning before the Council is to meet to prevent its being talkt of to others of which likewise please to approve the Gov<sup>r</sup> as to his speaking to the Mayor My son will follow your Directions as to every part of his conduct

I must likewise beg the favour of you to draw a Deed of Trust wherein he is to declare that he holds the said office in trust for me & for my Benefite & to account with me & to pay to me The Sallary Perquisites fees & Profits which he shall reserve thereon during my life I find there are several instances of offices being in trust for others by precedents of Deeds in the last Edition of Lilly's Conveyances when my son has executed this Deed please to keep it in your Custody till I shall send for it or receive it from you

I shall conclude with telling you that as my age renders me unfit for the bustle of the world I hope by the gaining of this point in favour of my son to pass the remainder of life with more ease & quiet not that I propose to pass it in sloth & indolence but in such kind of philosophical amusement in which I take most pleasure & which I hope may be of some use to & preserve my memory in some degree with posterity I have already made the rough draft of the Theory of the planets motion from the Principles of Action in matter I have the Vanity to think that however partial you have been in favour of what I formerly did they will please you more than any thing you have seen from me.

M<sup>r</sup> ALEXANDER

*Colden to Clinton*

[Copy]

May it please your Excell<sup>y</sup>

I have serv'd his Majesty in the office of Surveyor Gen<sup>l</sup> of lands above thirty years & I hope without blame My age now renders me not so able to undergo the fatigues which sometimes attend the execution of that office as I have been formerly I am therefor willing to remit in favour of my son Alexander I know that he is as capable of executing that office as any other person in this province & I am confident there can be no objection made as to his being properly qualified for that office I therefore humbly pray your Excell<sup>y</sup> will be pleas'd in consideration of my past services to grant him the Commission of Surveyor Gen<sup>l</sup> of lands in the Province of New York & Territories thereon depending in America during his good behaviour & thereby your Excell<sup>y</sup> will lay the strongest obligation on S<sup>r</sup>

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*Colden to Clinton*

[Copy]

COLDENGHAM Dec<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1750S<sup>r</sup>

Capt<sup>n</sup> Wentworth carried my answer to the honour I receiv'd by your Excellency's of the 27<sup>th</sup> of last month I now send my son Alexander to New York in hopes of your Excellency's apointing him Surveyor General of Lands in my place Your Excellency knows the temper of some persons whose resentments I have drawn upon my self that their malice tho' it may be restrain'd yet never ceases & only waits for a proper opportunity to exert itself. I am confident your Excellency has that friendship for me that you will do any thing in your power to Skreen me from any mischief that I & my

family may be exposed to Your Excellency knows well the uncertainty of publick affairs what unexpected turns they often take & therefor I [do not] think that I or my family can be secured against the malice that I am exposed to otherwise than by your Excellency's granting that commission during good behaviour I expect M<sup>r</sup> Alexander will wait on your Excellency to satisfy you that what I desire is proper to be don at this time & that it can be of no prejudice to his Majesty's service as I desire it As it may be proper to do this with the advice of Council I write another letter to be read in Council for that purpose I must beg of your Excellency to speak to the Mayor to secure his vote I wrote to Mr Kennedy & M<sup>r</sup> Rutherford

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*From James Alexander*

New York January 2<sup>d</sup> 1750/51

Dear Sir

I had yours of Decr 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> by your son on the 19<sup>th</sup> in the Evening, & before noon next day all things had succeeded so well that I Doubted not but on the 21<sup>st</sup> all would have been finisht to Satisfaction but the unfortunate Death of Mrs. Roddam on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> put a stop to all, as your Son wrote to his Excellency has seen no Company ever Since, but M<sup>r</sup> Kennedy Sent me word this morning that his Excellency would See Company at noon, & Rutherford he & I agreed to go together as Soon as he would See Company, so hope then to See his Ex<sup>y</sup> & if opportunity offers shall speak of your affair at that time

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of Decr instead of a deed of trust I Drew the form of a power from your Son to you to Execute Solely the office during your Life w<sup>t</sup> power to Set his name with your own to all things to pass in the office, with Covenant to Execute all part of the office personally during your Life without your Express order in writting



which I gave to him to make two Coppies of—the one to Send to you & the other for me to keep for you, and Least objections might be to the Granting one office to two persons. I made Some Extracts from the present State of Great Brittain printed in 1720 of a Single office granted to two & Sometimes to three persons which Extracts I shall inclose I also then got the Commission Engravt on parchment for the greater Dispatch.

I think I am Sure that I never forgot to Send any of your Letters to M<sup>r</sup> Collison but always sent them with my own. the way I formerly used was to inclose them directed to the master of the ship to be opened on his arriveal in London & within begging his care of the Delivery I suppose their care was to put them on the table of the New York Coffee House as the Custom is here which gave an opportunity of intercepting Letters there in like manner as they have done here, but since I Lost my Letters by Cornie I have put my Letters in a Small box & taken a bill of lading for the box & directed to Barclay & Son, & had it Entered in the masters freight book, your last Letter went in such a box by Dean or Cornee

On Monday last I received a Letter via Boston from Collison with one enclosed to you—very possibly you'll know by that whether any of your Letters have been intercepted—I shall inclose it herein

Since writting the above I have waited on his Excellency—after the Company was gone his Excellency called me, & we had almost half an hours Conversation on your affairs the result whereof was that he would call a Council tomorrow morning & would Send before hand & speak to the Mayor so that I hope the matter will pass tomorrow morning & that the Commission may have the Seal affixt to it tomorrow & that your son may be then qualified—there must be a Dedimus with the rolls (fair Coppyed) of State oaths annexed, to qualify you if there be not one already in the County, which would have been improper to have Inquired about before the matter was finisht. I hope that may be also prepared tomorrow that your

Son may go the next day you'll wonder how we came to talk so long on that affair, in short his Excellency Express some apprehensions of your being Dissatisfied, recapitulated reasons why you ought not, & reasons for his apprehensions, the bad success he had in giving a Commission in that manner to the Chief justice, which I obviated with the best reasons in my power and that my acquaintance with you for above 33 years rendered me well assured of the impossibility of your making a Like return for this favour as the Chief justice had done in the like case

One of the reasons for his apprehensions was a Letter he told me he had received from you Since you last went home with Some things more biting than he Expected—I think it would not be amiss you Lookt over your Coppies, or recollect what could give offense in any of your Letters, & if you can Discover any thing that may to apologize for it—your daughters illness is a Sufficient foundation

One of the reasons why you ought not to be Dissatisfied was that he had kept his office of Secretary of indian affairs for you that he had several times proposed giving you a Commission for that purpose, that he had wrote home to prevent any Commission passing there that Cath-erwood had wrote to him that Coll Johnston had recommended Lidius to him for that Commission—that he wrote him back to oppose it to him or any one else but if the thing was pushed by any to insist on your being the person to whom the Commission should go that his Ex<sup>y</sup> did not remember your reasons for declining accepting the Commission from him, as I had no orders to Speak to his Ex<sup>y</sup> on this head, I only declared I was not acquainted with your reasons I submit whether, it may not be proper to Communicate them to me, which with a brief Letter on that head to his Excellency acknowledging his favour may be a good introduction to talk on the matter

Janry 3<sup>d</sup> I am just returned from Council where the affair is agreed to nemine Contradicente, Mr Murray was

indisposed so not there an objection was made whether practicable & that time aught to be taken to Consider that point not that he had any objection were it practicable—the Examples Collected were of use to obviate that objection & his Excellency remembered further what I have added at End of the Examples, & So all were Satisfied in that point

I gave the Engrossed Commission to Mr Banyar on coming out from the Council, & Enquired if there was a Dedimus in the County by which you might be qualified, he very justly answered that if there were it was only to qualify the officers of that County whereas you by this Com<sup>r</sup> was an officer of the province wherfore the Dedimus must be Special for you, which he has promised to finish this afternoon with a Coppy of the oaths, & to record the Commission so that I hope your son may be ready this Evening

I think there should be a Return made of the Dedimus by annexing the oaths & Declaration Signed by you & by your Sons indorsing upon the Dedimus to this purpose—I the within Alexander Colden do hereby Certify that by virtue of the within presents the within Cadwallader was qualified for the office of Surveyor General of the province of New York by takeing the oath for the due Execution of the Said office & by takeing & Subscribing the Several State oaths & Declaration hereunto annexed Before me this . . . . . day of Janry 1750/51 Alexander Colden & the Dedimus so endorsed should be filed in the Secretarys office which you can bring with you when you come down in the Spring—it may not be amiss I think to have an endorsement on the Commission to this purpose

By virtue of a Dedimus protestation to me directed under the great Seal of this province I Do hereby Certify that the within Cadwallader Colden was qualified for the within office by taking the oath for the due Execution of the within Commission & by takeing & Subscribing the Several State oaths & Declaration annexed to the said Dedimus Before me this       day of January 1750/51

I think its highly necessary to rout out those appre-



hensions which his Excellency Exprest to me as impossible in person to do it at this time of year But a Letter carefully penned I believe may do as well if you find anything in your Letters that you think could find offense that together with this favour of the Commission I think may be the foundation of the Letter, if you can See nothing that could give offense then to Cite me for having given you the hint from what I had from his Excellency about a Letter from you that the Lowness of your Spirits by the indisposition of your daughter might have Suffered Some thing to be Exprest by you that were it not for that you should not have done so—I beg pardon for going so far in a thing that you know much better how to do also to render him thanks for what he talkt to me on the head of the Secretary of Indian affairs with a brief hint of the reasons of your declineing them, & your readiness now to accept the Commission & if he will join your son in it in the same manner will greatly increase the favor, not doubting his Exys Endeavours & interest to have the matter Confirmed at home the Expense of which you'll take care to direct a friend in London to Defray

When these apprehensions are fully removed & that Commission had, I am in hopes from what I have acquainted your Son that upon his going the Government shall be Left in your hand as president Capt Roddam has received his orders I hear to return in May next

You have Seen it I doubt not in many papers that A-----W-----n was to be Chosen president of Trinity house on Deptford Strand vacant by the death of the Duke of Richmond a place it seems of great honour but it Seems at the Election that he had but five Votes whereas his antagonist had twenty

If your Letter to his Excellency went even so far as to Express an abhorrence of the ungrateful return of a Certain person for a like favour is this done to you, I believe it would not be amiss, his going away a firm friend cannot but be of great Service to you & your friends; how, is needless to say

I enclose to you the Last paper on a Contraversie



between its said C---L---n & W---L---n about the jersey Line which drew the appendix from a jersey prop<sup>r</sup> who otherways would not have printed any thing on that head here, till the determination of the Contraversie in England but least the reply unanswered by the animadversions might have been offered as proof of the two false heads therein advanced it was thought necessary by that appendix to take off the force of that Evidence

Your son telling me all is finisht I have only to add that I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most affectionate & most  
humble Servt

JA. ALEXANDER

one of the powers from  
your Son is enclosed the  
other I keep

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*From Peter Kalm*

Dear Sir

January 4th 1751

Upon my last letter, which I had the honour to write to you, Sir, I have not to this day receiv'd any answer, so that I am very uneasy, fearing you is not wel. I had the honour then to acquaint you, that I had defer'd my going home to the month of January because I was not sure to find any ships going for Sweden at my arrival at London. Now as the ship, upon which I intend to go from here, will not be ready to sail before in the middle of February next, I have taken the opportunity to write to you with another gentleman. I should be very glad, Sir, if I could receive from you the letter to Mr. Linnæus, which you was so kind and promised to send to him; he will be exceeding glad of that, as there are few persons he sets a such value upon as upon you.

But excuse me, Dear Sir, that I again am so bold to trouble you with the same, that I before wrote to you:

1. Be pleased to give me a short History of your life; there is nothing we want so much as a *Biographia Botanicorum*; the old were very negligent in that: there are many of which we hardly know any other thing but the name; nay, if we seek yet to the history of their life, we are obliged to pick up here and there a word in the writings of their contemporaries; at our days we take a more trouble in that: I have already got the history of Mr. Bartram's life; of Clayton I hope D. Gronovius will give out his *vitae historiam*.

2. if it was not to much trouble, to give me a catalogue of all the Quadrupeds you have any knowledge of to be here in North America, both wild and tame; my catalogue of them is this of new Panthers wild cat, Loup courier, Martin, Skunk, Mink, Fisher, Possum, Otter, Seal, Wolf, Red Fox, gray fox, with a cross upon the back, Silver coloured fox black fox, white fox, Bear, white Bear, Raccoon, Groundhog, Porcupine, *Vespertilio*, Rabbit, Hare; of Squirrel kind, the gray, red, black, flying, ground, white; Beaver, Musk-rat, Deer, Elk, wild oxen of two sorts. [One word illegible]

Qr. is there more than one sort of Panther?

Qr. is there more than one sort of wild Cat? the French in Canada made a distinction between Chat Savage & Loup Courier?

Qr. is here any *Mustela vulgaris* or Weasel *valore albo, vel alio rotore*?

Qr. is there any Opossum so far to Norse as where you lives?

Qr. are the Seals seen in Hudsons River?

Qr. is there more than one sort of wolfs?

Qr. is there any white Bears different from the at Hudsons Bay?

Qr. is it more than one sort of Porcupine?

Qr. is it more than one sort of Bat or *Vespertilio*?

Qr. how many sorts of Rat-kind?

Qr. is there more than one sort of Deer? the French make distinction between *Cerf* & *Chevreuil*?

Qr. have you heard any thing of the Mouse-Deer?  
Pray, Sir, give me a short catalogue of all the fishes you know to be in fresh water in your Province?

Qr. what is your opinion why people so loose their teeths in this country?

Will you not wonder to hear, that I have found here in America growing wild the Colocasia or fabia Agyptia veterum, which is that species of Nymphæa, which you will find in Linnæi Flora Zeylanica?

My respect to Mistriss Colden, the Misses, & young children I have the honour to be,

Dear Sir,

Your most humble & obedient Servant  
PETER KALM

Philadelphia January 4th 1751.

[Endorsed]

To DR. CADWALLADER COLDEN  
at  
Coldingham.

*From Cadwallader Colden to George Clinton*

[Copy]

Coldenham Jan<sup>r</sup> 11th 1750-1.

S<sup>r</sup>

I design'd to have wrote more fully to your Excellency in acknowledgement of your last particular favour but Mr Roome who is the bearer of this had set out for Albany & unexpectedly return'd without going thither I have had so short notice of his design to set out for New York that I must beg your Excellency's excuse for my not writing so fully on this occasion as I think it my Duty to do I may be confident I think that your Excellency will never find me ungratefull for the many favours you have don me because I can not charge my self with ever having been guilty of ingratitude in any sense even when I had strong temptations to it nor do I know that I was ever accused of it by any from whom I receiv'd act of

friendship. Mr Alexander tells me that your Excellency was displeased with something in my letters since I return'd to this place This has both surprised me & given me a great deal of uneasiness. I am sure nothing could have been farther from my intention than writing or doing any thing that I thought could be disagreeable to you & therefor I must think that if your Excell<sup>y</sup> will take the trouble of comparing any part which has been disagreeable with the Intention & view of my writing I hope you will soon be convinced it can bear no such construction however unhappy I may have been in expressing my self & for which the circumstances of my family at that time may plead for some excuse Pray offer my Duty to Mrs Clinton & please to make my acknowledgmts to her on her friendly good offices on many occasions The honour of your Excellencys commands will at times give the greatest pleasure to  
To his Excell<sup>y</sup>

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*From Cadwallader Colden to James Alexander*  
[Copy]

Jan<sup>ry</sup> 17th 1750-1

S<sup>r</sup>

Your late acts of particular friendship are such as I cannot properly acknowledge in words & I believe you do not expect I should. Some part of your letter by my son really surprised me in that the Gov<sup>r</sup> had taken some thing amiss which I had wrote to him from this place for I am sure I had no intention to displease him but otherwise I have lookt over my copies & cannot discover any reason for his displeasure & therefore I beg of you to desire a sight of my letter & to inform the Gov<sup>r</sup> that I desire often to do it that I may have it in my power to execute my self from a fault which was far from my intention to commit If he spoke nothing of it the first time you waited on him from me I shall suspect that the ob-



jections he afterwards made were from some other person. The subject of my last letters was to be a foundation of his Excellency to the D of B & L<sup>ds</sup> of Trade in excuse for his meeting the assembly & receiving the Sallary in the manner he did My intention was to make the best excuse I could consistent with truth & which I still think I did going from the truth could neither be of real use to him nor me & therefor I hope he did not take amiss my keeping close to it as to what the Gov<sup>r</sup> & you were both so kind to mention of the Secretarys office for Indian affairs I shall truly tell you my past thoughts of it & then leave it to his Excellency & you to do as you think proper 1 No profits can attend the execution of that office besides the Sallary annexed to it 2 The Gov<sup>rs</sup> Commiss<sup>r</sup> cannot give the Sallary 3 As there had been great pains taken to give the D of B & N & Mr P prejudices against me of which his Excellency had information I could not expect that any thing would be don by the Ministry in my favour till these prejudices were remov'd 4 I was in hopes the removal of them might have been effected by Mr Shirley but I know nothing from him. 5 After the Gov<sup>rs</sup> affairs seemd to have taken a better turn, I had entertain'd some thoughts of accepting the Gov<sup>rs</sup> Commissions in hopes of obtaining the Sallary afterwards & to have appointed my son John my Deputy 6 But since his Death I was discouraged in it since no body else would act as Deputy without being paid out of my pocket & by that means the Clerk's office going out of my family prov'd a double loss to me & There must be a Deputy at Albany to Act with the Comm<sup>rs</sup> of Indian affairs on all occasions

I intend to inclose a letter to the Gov<sup>r</sup> under a flying seal for your perusal which please to close with a wafer under the seal & send it to him

To Mr ALEXANDER

*From James Alexander*

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

NEW YORK Janry 23d 1750/1

On Monday I had the favour of yours of 17th & immediately Sent the inclosed to his Excellency—the End of Last week I had notice to attend the Jersey assembly this day at Burlington and am preparing to go as Soon as I can—I have not Seen his Excellency since I received yours, if I can spare time I will See him before I goe & Communicate Such parts of yours as I believe you intended I should

Your reasons for not accepting the Commission for Secretary of indian affairs are Such as to Leave it doubtful whether it can be of any benefitt to you even if the Salary were got, and as that is to be got in England, it cannot I believe be had without considerable work

Mr Nichols this Evening Sent me word that there was an opportunity up early in the morning & that he was to Send his Letters this night—which induced me to Set down to write this in haste I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most  
humble Servant

[Endorsed]

To

JAS. ALEXANDER

The hon<sup>ble</sup>

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq

att

Coldingham

*From James Alexander*

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

NEW YORK Janry 24th 1750/1

I am to Set out for Burlington tomorrow morning at 8 oclock Yesternight I wrote to you & Sent it to Mr Nichols to go by an opportunity this morning, but I think it my Duty to write this further viz

That haveing considered your Letter to me I saw no inconvenience it could be to communicate the whole to the Gov<sup>r</sup> & therefore this morning Sent it to him by D<sup>r</sup>

Ayscough, & told him if his Excellency desired it I would wait on him—after Some time he brought it back with yours to his Excellency which had given offense desiring me to read it & he would call for it by & by—I read it again & again, two places were underlined the word *immediatly* in your congratulation. . & after it End of that paragraph *honour & integrity*; when the Doctor came back I told him I had Considered it & particularly those places underlined, but was far from Seeing any just cause of offense given by these places or any other part of it on the Contrary I thought it a very proper footing to Instruct Mr Catherwood concerning these affairs—the Doctor said he never Saw the Letter till this Day, & the Gov<sup>r</sup> desired him to read it & he did & Declared to the Gov<sup>r</sup> he Saw nothing amiss in it—he had him read it over again which he did & gave the Same answer

but what I am most Concerned of all for is that the Doctor told me that the Mayor had asked the Gov<sup>r</sup> for the Commission of Secretary of Indian affairs and had promised it to him yesterday, his telling me So I believe he perceived made me change colour—I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most affectionate & most  
humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

[Endorsed]

The hon<sup>ble</sup>

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att Coldingham

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*Cadwallader Colden to Linnæus*

[Copy]

*Celeberrimo D. Carolo Linnæo Archiatro Regis ac Medicinæ et Botanici Professori Upsalensis etc.*

COLDENHAM IN THE PROVINCE OF NEW YORK

Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1 1750-1

S<sup>r</sup>

Mr Kalm being now on his return home I cannot suffer him to go without acknowledging the favours I



have receiv'd from you a person so highly esteem'd & distinguished in the republic of Learning & to whom the world owes so much by the vast acquisition in knowledge it has gain'd in Botany & all parts of natural history by your wonderful Skill & indefatigable labours My last to you was intrusted to Mr Kalm's care. In it I gave you several corrections of the mistakes I had made in the Botanical observations which Gronovius sent you from me & which Mr Kalm tells me are published in the Acta of your Academy I hope you receiv'd them before these observations were made public & that the proper corrections are made before the publication. I am very desirous to see them as they are printed & I must beg the favour of you to send them to Mr Collinson for me because I know not otherwise how to obtain them if you have no opportunity of sending them to Philadia. in which case please to direct them to the care of Mr Benjamin Franklin Post Master in Philadelphia

Kalm has so much more knowledge in Botany & in natural history than any in this Country can pretend to & he has been so industrious & has undergon such great difficulties in travelling through a great part of this vast Forest & risqued such dangers to his person from its savage inhabitants that as on the one hand his zeal in the pursuit of knowledge cannot be sufficiently applauded so on the other hand I have no hopes left me that I can be of any farther use to you However S<sup>r</sup> if there remain any thing in which you think I can give you information you will give me the greatest pleasure in receiving yours commands And tho' it be too probable that you may have no such inducement to write to me yet I hope you will so far favour a person who has the greatest esteem of your merit as to let me sometimes know that you live & continue an ornament of your Country by giving me some account of the fruits which you daily produce I am with the greatest respect

Mr Kalm was so industrious that I could not persuade him to stay above one night at my house in the Country tho' the fatigues he underwent seem'd require his taking



some ease & refreshment my hapning to be deeply engaged in public affairs deprived me in a great measure if the pleasure of his conversation at other times while he was in the City of New York

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*Cadwallader Colden to Peter Kalm  
In answer to his letter of Jan. 4, 1751*

[Copy]

S<sup>r</sup>

I have the favour of yours of the 4th of last month but that which you mention to have wrote preceeding it never came to my hands so that till I receiv'd your last I did not know whether you had left America last fall as you proposed or not This made me lately write to Mr Franklin to know the certainty of it I heartily wish you a happy Voyage home & that at your return you may receive those rewards which your labours richly deserve In answer to the Questions you put to me I shall inform you as far as my knowledge allows me to go & on such manner as I judge best suits the view of your Queries

As to what you desire to know of tho' any account of me would come more properly from another yet I shall briefly tell you the principal turns in my life my self. My Father was a Minister of the Church of Scotland & the oldest minister in it before he dy'd He was much esteem'd for his Piety & strict morals & had a considerable interest with many of the Nobility I was educated at the University of Edinburg My fathers view in my Education was for the church as by his Interest I could have no doubt of preferment in it But after I had gone through the usual studies at the University my inclinations were averse to entering into orders in the church & I applied my self to the study of Physic I learn'd the Rudiments of Botany under Dr Preston whose name you'll find in Ray's Methodus Emendata. I went through a Course of Anatomy with D<sup>r</sup> Ariskine & of Chymistry with Mr. Wilson both of them distinguished

in their Professions at London The Sallaries of the Ministers in the Church of Scotland are very small & the expence of my Education had so far exhausted my fathers pocket that I found it was not in my power to make that figure which it is necessary for a young Physician to do in Gr.Brittain on his first appearing in the World. My Mother had a sister in Philadelphia a widow who had acquired some estate & had no children & this induced me upon an invitation from my relations to try my fortune in America I arriv'd at Philadelphia in the year 1710 On my arrival I became inquisitive into the American plants but they were then so little known & I had so little assistance from my books that I was soon discouraged in that study. In the year 1715 I return'd to Gr.Brittain I had conversation with Dr Halley & other men of learning at London in the Mathematical way for my taste chiefly inclined me to that study I went to Scotland & married my present wife & the year following return'd to Philadelphia I fixed there with a view to practice Physic but in the year 1718 I had the Curiosity to visit New York without the least thought of changing my place of residence I visited the then Gov<sup>r</sup> of the Place General Hunter as it is usual for strangers to do tho' I had no manner of acquaintance with him He receiv'd me more kindly than I expected & tho I staid but three days in the place I was twice invited by him to particular conversations. General Hunter had serv'd in the Army *from the time of the Revolution in Gr.Brittain* under K William & the D of Marlborough to the year 1709 when he was made Gov<sup>r</sup> of New York He had not only distinguished himself in the field but likewise at the Court among the Polite & men of Learning In about a fortnights time after I had return'd to Philadia from New York I very unexpectedly receiv'd a letter from Gov<sup>r</sup> Hunter with an Invitation to come to New York with my family accompanied with the offer to an office of Profit which I accepted & soon after remov'd my family to New York Gen<sup>l</sup> Hunter continued in his Govt only 2 years after my removal but I had the

good fortune to be in favour with all his Successors one only excepted In the year 1722 I was appointed one of the Kings Council for the Province of N. Y. The Business of my office of Surv<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> of Lands obliged me to be much in the Country & my offices & Intimacy with the Gov<sup>rs</sup> occasioning a greater expense then suited my circumstances & taste of pleasures accompanied with no small share of envy I removed my family about the year 1729 to the Country. After which time I indulged my humour in philosophical amusements more than I could do while lived in town. It was some years after this that I accidentally met with Dr Linnæus Genera plantarum. I was so much taken with the Acuracy of his Characters that I resolv'd to examine them with the plants which grow near my house & this was the sole occasion of what you have seen from me in Botany & which is so inconsiderable that I can have no pretensions to any Merit in that Science As to your other Queries I can give you but little Satisfaction You know more a great deal than I do of the Quadrupeds in America I never heard nor did I imagine that we had so many species of foxes in America As you mention It is very unhappy that our Climate is so fitted to the fox constitution I know of neither hare nor rabbit in this Country what we have is a midle species between the two. I never heard of a white squirrel Panthers are so rare that we hear of one only in a dozen years I have seen two species of the *Mustela* viz, *Mustela fulvo nigricans inferiore parte capitis, gulae, abdominis et interior femorum alba* 2 *Mustela tota candidiformis excepto caudo apice atro* This last is the only beast of the ravenous kind that I have a value for because one or two of them deliver'd my house & barn from rats when all was like to be devour'd by them & the weasel did us no kind of Injury They became almost tame as we took great care neither to hurt nor frighten them But after all the rats were kill'd they left us It is a most beautifull white & soft fur so that I do not doubt of its being the true ermine

I never saw an Oppossum nor hear'd of any in this



Province I think Seals have been seen on the Bay before you come up to the City of New York on rocks near Staten Island

I never heard of more than one kind of Wolf & I suppose that you know the Indian Dog is much shaped like a wolf I never saw any Porcupine but in the Mahawks Country nor have I heard of any in this part of the Country I know only one sort of Bat None of the Rat kind I believe are properly natives of America but that they have been all originally imported. I have often heard of the Mouse Deer One I think since I came to the Country was caught near Albany but I can give you no description of it I have heard that it is as large as an ox & has a main like a horse Any country boy you meet can inform you more of fishes than I can

As to the reason of the children of the people from Europe (not the native Indians) 'loosing their teeth so commonly I attribute it entirely to the Scurvy of which scarce one family in this Country is free The far greatest number of the Inhabitants when brought over to America were mean people crowded in ships & run with the Scurvy when they landed & great numbers of Such are yearly imported In former times they had little fresh Provision or Sallad so that they were obliged to feed on salt meat allmost the whole year And I take the Scurvy in a considerable degree to be contageious when people sleep together it is no wonder that it is become endemick The Rheumatismus scorbuticus being very common in this country is another proof of this I have heard that the Indians eat the roots of one kind of Nymphæa but tho' I knew this I did not suspect it to be the Colocassia because Linnæus ranks the Colocassia with the Arum Please to distinguish the species & tell me the reason you think it the Colocassia Egyptianum It will give me the greatest pleasure to hear of your safe arrival at home & that you have published the prints of your labours in America Mr. Franklin at Philad<sup>ia</sup> will take care of any letters for me or Mr. Collinson in London



*From James Colden*Dr S<sup>r</sup>WHITSOM 15th Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1751

I had a letter from my Son Sander this week giving me an account both of the death of your oldest Son and of my Second Son You will make no doubt but two pieces of Such bad news must make a very Strong impression and tho it is impossible but the death of my Son especially as he had no friend with him at his death must effect me in a very Sensible manner: yet I assure you I most heartily Sympathise with you and my Sister under your distress and have a Sensible feeling of it. But D: B it is to little purpose to be telling one another our distress, and it would be folly as well as Sin to complain for no doubt God may do with us and ours as he pleaseth without giving any reason of his doings and when we look into our hearts and lives we will See that he might with the greatest Justice strip us of all our comforts; yea, bring on us the Sorest afflictions ever any of the children of men met with it is our unquestionable duty to submit to the divine pleasure and check every murmuring thought that may arise in our hearts and as by Sad experience we will find it out of our power to bring our Selves to this Disposition of mind we ought to plead with God, our mercy full Father that he may frame our Spirits to his will, and both teach and enable us both to submit our Selves, under his Chastening hand, make a profitable improvement of this affliction, learn to get our affections removed from all earthly comforts and placed on God alone in the enjoyment of whom alone our happyness consists and be doubling our diligence in preparing for that blessed state in which there will neither be grief nor Sorrow, nor cause of either. As am in no fit disposition for writing I shal trouble you no further than by offering my best wishes for my Sister and your Children I am

D.B

Your Affectionate & Sympathizing B<sup>r</sup>

[Endorsed]

To

JAMES COLDEN

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at New York North America  
r-c-d from N-Y<sup>k</sup> June 1752

*Cadwallader Colden to George Clinton*

[Copy]

Feb<sup>ry</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1750/1S<sup>r</sup>

I receiv'd on the 12th of this month two letters from D<sup>r</sup> Ayscough with the Albany post mark upon them & with the Doctors hand <sup>of</sup> Van Ess One dated the 29th of October & 3<sup>d</sup> of November the other the 5<sup>th</sup> of November As the first contain'd a paper in your Excellency's hand writing giving an account of some discourse between you & the Speaker I believe your Excellency may be pleased to know that it is at last come safe to hand & I hope it will likewise excuse my not having given any answer to them I am at present by the season of the year entirely ignorant at present of what passes in the world If your Excellency have not already receiv'd good news from Europe I hope you will soon to your wish & none will partake more of the pleasure when known than I shall & nothing will more effectually raise my spirits which have been more depressed in six months than in many years before by my weakness towards my children It shall be my earnest endeavour by my conduct to show the gratefull sense I have of your favours & of the honour of your Friendship Pray make my dutyfull complements to M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton My daughter Jenny is now I hope perfectly recover'd except in her strength I am

To his Excell<sup>y</sup>

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*From P. Collinson*

LONDON March 7th 1751

By Capt Bryant

I informed my Dear Friend that Mr Guerin absolutely refused to pay y<sup>r</sup> last bill

under I think very frivolous pretences—that he had no certain notice of Y<sup>r</sup> Son Decease besides he knew not

what title you had to Demand It—after much attendance from one End of the Town to the other that was the answer Which I do assure you I do not grudge to Serve my Worthy Friend, I have much to Say & truly Sympathize with you under so great an affliction

I am my Dear Friend

Yrs affectionately

P COLLINSON

I am So hurried & Engaged but if any Leisure offers you'll hear further by Late [?] Ships from Y<sup>rs</sup>

PC

[Endorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq

These

*From Archibald Kennedy*

Dear Sir

15th Ap. 1751

I once told you I had got some confused ideas of Indian affairs in my head, they are now before you, and submitted to your better Judgement and correction, my friends have advised the publishing of them with Mr Franklands remarks, to which he has agreed absque nomine This however, will depend in a great measure upon what you will please to advise. If you approve I hope I shall have your observations, and the sooner the better that they appear (if they appear at all) in a proper shape at the Grand Congress at Albany in June next.

I doubt I can send you nothing new. The whispers of the G. going home in Roddam still continue Watts & Walton are talked of as candidates in M<sup>r</sup> Clarkson's place. Capt Rutherford talks of going in Bryant, Capt Wentworth lyes ill of smal pox off of my island If anything extraordinary offers by Bryant I will take the first opportunity to let you know it in the meantime I am

Dear Sir

Most humbly yours

ARCH<sup>d</sup> KENNEDY

*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK May 7th 1751

Dear Sir

Yours of the 2d I had yesternight from your Son—he tells me there's an opportunity now in an hours time

I am glad to hear that with patience & waiting for fair weather you have got Safe home at last—we are impatient for the arrivale of Some Ships—soon after which I shall wait in the Gov<sup>r</sup> & do as you propose

I have not heard but by yours of the promise to support the L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>rs</sup> Comm<sup>n</sup>, I shall Enquire of Kennedy how he heard it

I perfectly agree with you in opinion of the folly of endeavouring against tide & wind we have Seen the Consequence to be often much Lee way instead of gaining any thing ahead

Doctor Ayscough told me the Gov<sup>r</sup> returned last week in very good health—C J Delancey was last week dangerously ill of a fitt of the asthma, but I hear is recovered

Our Compliments to Mrs Colden and your family  
I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your Most affectionate &  
most humble Servant  
JA. ALEXANDER

[Endorsed]

The hon<sup>ble</sup>  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att Coldingham

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK May 17th 1751

Dear Sir

this morning Capt Bryant brought my box of Letters from Chief Justice Morris which he had mislaid & have but this minute finisht my reading his to me



he has not been able to get the board of trades report as to jersey affairs considered in Council as yet nor knows not when he shall—that an unhappy Difference has arisen between the D— of N. . . & D—— of B——d that has rose to that height that one of them must be out, but which the best politicians cannot determine—which difference mightily retards that affair & all others where a general agreement of his M——y's Servants is necessary.

That the report as to New York affairs is not come as yet from the board of trade—his Letters to the Gov<sup>r</sup> & all his friends I immediately Sent on opening the box

Tho I have got the gout in both my feet & my right foot I cannot touch the ground with, I went yesterday to Council & at his Ex<sup>ys</sup> desire came an hour before. Sitting of the Council, and during that hours Conversation, & by Conversation with Coll Morris on Tuesday & Wednesday last. I find that Mr Catherwood by advise and assistance of C Morris & Mr Paris drew Queries for the opinion of the attorney & Soll<sup>r</sup> Genll which Coll Morris brought to show me on Tuesday before the queries were copy of the Clause of the Gov<sup>rt</sup> Com<sup>r</sup>. empowering him to Suspend a Lieut. Gov<sup>r</sup> & appoint another—& the principal Querie was whether his bringing with him the Lieut Gov<sup>rs</sup> Com<sup>n</sup> would not Debarr him from takeing office, and whether he would Suspend in form, until he was qualified in that Commission—which Questions I think were Something odd in themselves—But the opinion of the Atty & Soll<sup>r</sup> Genll subscribed seems to me Still more idle & out of the way the Substance to the best of my memory is

There on Considering the whole Circumstances of this affair, they thought it best to apply to his Majesty to recall that Commission & to appoint another or Else to get power from his Majesty for him to do it

the Gov<sup>r</sup> Coll Morris & I are of one opinion that by the last part of their opinion it Seems Evident that they had not read the Clause of the Commission prefixed to the Querie Seing more full and Express power cannot be given by his Majesty than by that is already given—

and that Such great men are so hurried with businese that they Seldom have time to give opinions that are to be relied on

Mr Catherwood pursuant to the first part of that opinion made application for recalling that Commission but its uncertain when that application will be taken into consideration

Coll Morris & I were of opinion there was no use for Such application but that his Ex<sup>y</sup> had Sufft power of Suspension & more than Sufft Cause to Exercise that power that he ought to do it & wait for no result on that application and that his Excellency should write to Mr. Catherwood that Such was his intention if he had nothing to the Contrary by or before Richards the last of the Ships that were on Sailing for this place—Coll Morris brought word on Wednesday that the Gov<sup>r</sup> approved our Sentiments & desired us to draw a Letter to Catherwood from him for that purpose which we did & he carried it to the Gov<sup>r</sup>—yesterday the Gov<sup>r</sup> declared to me his approbation of the draught & would write so

his Excellency told me also that Capt Wraxall whom you & he depended on as a friend yet had on all occasions given the most disadvantageous ideas of you to his friends & others & done more hurt than any other his nephew at last forbid him his house—without Catherwoods knowledge he has got a Commission for Survey of Indian affairs & Clerk of the pleas & peace of the County of Albany as Philip Livingstons Commission at which his Ex<sup>y</sup> is much Displeased

I could not recommend to you Secrecy on this matter for you cannot but know or guess the Consequences of it spreading Especially as his Ex<sup>y</sup> is to meet the Assembly the 28th

The jersey assembly meets that day I hope in the beginning of the week I may be able to get into a Chase to go to a boat, if I am I Shall then goe, I am

Dear Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

P. S. May 21st: I have put off my going to jersey till Thursday Dr Ayscough was here this morning to tell me the Gov<sup>r</sup> was afraid that C J D should in your & my absence leave something or other to Embarass him—and whither it would not be best you should be here,—I was of opinion it would be much the best wherupon I suppose the Gov<sup>r</sup> will this day write to you for that purpose

[Endorsed]

To The Hon<sup>ble</sup>

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at Coldenham

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*From George Clinton*

FORT GEORGE May 20, 1751

S<sup>r</sup>

Bryant and Corne are both arrived and bring no manner of Instructions or Directions (in respect to the Chief Justice) from the Ministry.—Badger sailed almost at the same time so can expect none by him, my chief hopes are on Richards who was to sail some time after them; I have received the Sollicitor and attourney General's opinion upon the case, which in short is none at all; after several Queries the Result is, that I may apply to the King to appoint another Lieut: Governour, which I knew as well as them, without being at such an Expencc. And if I have no Advices from the Ministry relating to him by the next Ship. I am determin'd to suspend him under the Broad Seal of the Province, and give my Reasons home for so doing. I make no doubt that the Prince's Death has put a total stagnation to Business, for which reason I fear I can not receive any thing material from home.

Chief Justice Morris is in the same state of uncertainty, for tho' he has given in his Report, he can not have a hearing unless before a full Council, and God knows when that will be.

As I have by circular Letters appointed the Assembly to meet the 28 Instant, in order to lay before them the



several Governours Letters in answer to mine of 29 Decem<sup>br</sup>, by which I have no expectations of any of their Assistance in the Treaty with the Indians at Albany (Boston excepted), and as Mr Alexander is obliged to go to the Jerseys tomorrow I by his advice desire you will be down at furthest by the 27th, for fear that the C. J. should artfully make use of his and your absence to start some stratagem on other purely to involve me in Difficulties unforeseen. Therefore I desire you will not fail I am S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Servant

G CLINTON

Honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq.

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*From George Clinton*

By His Excellency the Hono<sup>ble</sup> George Clinton Captain General and Governour in Chief of the province of New York and Territories thereon depending in America Vice Admiral of the same and Admiral of the White Squadron of His Majesty's Fleet.

To Cadwallader Colden and Alexander Colden Esq<sup>rs</sup>. Surveyors General of the province of New York

You are hereby directed and Required to repair to a certain Tract of Land lately purchased of the native Indian proprietors thereof by Johan Joost Herkermer in the County of Albany on the South side of the Mohawks River at the Fall Hill Beginning on the South Bank of the said River at the North West Corner of a Tract of Land granted to John Lindesay and Company Containing three thousand and two hundred Acres and further bounded and described as by the Deed of purchase for the said Land may appear And there Survey and lay out for the said Johan Joost Herkermer and his Son Hendrick Herkermer the quantity of Two thousand and five hundred Acres of the said Land including a small Island containing about two Acres lying in the said River near the



place where the above mentioned Tract takes its Beginning And you are also to repair to and survey for the said Johan Joost Herkermer and Hendrick Herkermer a small parcel of vacant Land visited in the Crown Containing about One hundred and fifty acres lying in the County of Albany on the South side of the Mohawks River near Canajohary and Contiguous to Lands there granted to Peter Wagener and others to Rutger Bleeker and others and to Rutger and Nicholas Bleecker in doing whereof you are to have Regard to the profitable and unprofitable Acres and to take Care that the length thereof does not extend along the Banks of any River otherwise than is conformable to his Majesty's Royal instructions for that purpose And of what you shall have done herein you are to make Return to me To the Intent That I or the Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being The Collector of his Majesty's Customs His Majesty's Secretary and yourselves or the Surveyor General for the time being Or any three of us and them (the Surveyor General to be always one) may on the said Survey being so made as aforesaid be the better Enabled to set out for them the said Johan Joost Herkermer and Hendrick Herkermer the Lands aforesaid To whom I am advised by his Majesty's Council to grant his Majesty's Letters Patent for the same in such Manner and under such Quit Rent Provisoos and Restrictions as are directed in his Majesty's Commission and Instructions to me And for so doing this shall be your suffic<sup>t</sup> Warrant Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms at Fort George in the City of New York the twelfth day of June One thousand seven hundred and fifty one. By His Excellency's Command

G CLINTON

GEO. BANYAR D Secry

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*From Thomas Osborne*

S<sup>r</sup>

I have Receiv'd the favour of both yours & Should have Answer'd the first before but that was upon so melancholy a Subject that I deferr'd writing as you will

find hereafter Its True that I did inform you that the Indian History was well receiv'd, but for what Reason I cannot tell the Sale of it fell off before I sold one Quarter of the Impression and the Demand has been So very Smal ever Since That I was Glad to dispose of them at any Rate and what I had remaining upon my hands. I sold for Twelve Pence a Book, so that I am a Loser by that undertaking at least Thirty pounds Therefore I cannot give Encouragement to continue it on I shall be proud of Serving you with any Thing that I have but am determined for the future to Trade for nothing but ready money by which means I can afford to Sell cheaper than another.

I am S<sup>r</sup>  
Your Most Obedient Humble Servant  
THO OSBORNE

Gray's Inn London

July 20, 1751

[Endorsed]

For CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at  
New York

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*Cadwallader Colden to Clinton*

[Copy]

The present state of the Indian affairs with the British & French Colonies in North America with some observations thereon, for securing the Fidelity of the Indians to the Crown of Great Brittain & promoting Trade among them.

In obedience to your Excellency's Commands, I have collected the Informations we have received relating to the Indian affairs with the English & French Colonies & put them in Such order as from thence their true state at this time may be put in the clearest light, For this purpose it is necessary to go so far back, as the time when your Excell<sup>y</sup> engaged the six nations in the expedi-

tion intended against Canada in the year 1746. Your Excellency no doubt remembers in what Disposition the Six Nations were then what influence the French had gained among them, & How the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> for Indian affairs at that time in this province had, even by their own confession, lost all influence among the Indians. That at that time Mr Johnson distinguished himself among the Indians by his indefatigable pains among them, & by his compliance with their humours in his dress & conversation with them that he was the chief Instrument, under your Excellency, in persuading them to enter into the War against the French; but that it was principally effected by the very large presents publicly made to them, by your Excellency at that time, & continued through Mr Jonsons hands from time to time till the peace was concluded & for some time afterwards The Commiss<sup>rs</sup> for Indian affairs having lost all influence on the Indians Your Excell<sup>y</sup> found it necessary to commit the whole conduct of Indian affairs to Colonel Johnson to Command them with a Commission of Indian affairs & being furnished with larger sums for this Service by the Crown, with a Colonels pay for himself, he made a greater figure, & gained more influence among the Indians than any person before him (so far as I have learned) ever did. And it is no wonder, since he had advantages much greater than any one before him ever had This ascendancy, which he had gained over the Indians, appeared, by his being able to prevent their sending to Canada, to confirm the peace & to exchange their Prisoners as before this time they had allwise done, & in their trusting entirely to your Excell<sup>y</sup> for the recovery of their people, who were detained prisoners in Canada, by which they gave the French an undoubted proof that they looked on themselves as subject to the Crown of Gr. Brittain. The allowance for Indian affairs from the Crown being stopt, on the Conclusion of the Peace, & the Assembly refusing to grant so much as the usual allowances made to the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> for Indian affairs in time of Peace, Coll Johnson found himself disabled to



carry them on without great prejudice to his private fortune: & if he had gon on in the expensive manner, to which he had accustomed the Indians might have ruined his fortune being discouraged by the want of necessary supplies Coll Johnson desired his Dismission from this Service & at last without your Excell<sup>y</sup>'s Privity sent a Belt round all the nations, whereby he informed them that he no longer took care of their affairs. This was a very odd step, such as nothing of the kind had ever been don before, & occasioned extraordinary speculations among the Indians of which it is supposed the French Emissaries took advantage.

The Commission for Indian affairs had been for many years past intrusted with the Dutch at Albany. The last Commissioners had joined openly with the Faction in the Assembly, in opposition to the administration & the Gover<sup>s</sup> Measures; & they were, on the other hand remarkably favour'd by that Faction in the representations & Remonstrances published by that house. They openly assisted each other in infusing prejudices in the minds of the People to your Excellency's administration.

These Commiss<sup>rs</sup> were influenced by two motives. First by resentment, for the loss of that Authority which they had so long possessed, & this resentment was increased by its being put into the hands of an Englishman, whom the Dutch look on as intruders into their patrimony. The other was, the loss the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> thereby sustained in their private or personal trade, or at least imagined that they did; for as the Indians, when they come first to Albany, go first to the Com<sup>rs</sup>, they thereby gain a preference in the buying of furs; & likewise make use of the money allowed them for presents to the Indians in drawing the Indians to trade with them preferably to others. This is evident, by the interest the Traders make, to be put into that Commission, which otherwise could have no profit attending it, but by the Methods here supposed. Coll Johnson is the most considerable trader with the Western Indians & sends more goods to Oswego than any other person does, the People of



Albany imagined, that his having the Conduct of the Indian affairs gave him great advantages For as he lives near the Mohawk castle, & near forty miles west from Albany, all the six Nations & other Indians to the Westward stopt at his house, & were there suplied, & from that time few or none were seen in Albany. This touched a people in the most sensible part, who have no other view in life but that of getting money

When the War broke out the Contractors for supplying the Garison at Oswego refused to continue their Contract, unless a very considerable allowance were made them for escortes & other extraordinary expenses. Coll Johnson undertook it & supplied a double Garrison at Oswego by advancing the money on the faith of the Assembly. He advanced money for several other publick expenses by which a very large sum of Money became due to him from the Province. The Faction in the Assembly took a method in favour of their friends at Albany which had been often before practised even with Governors themselves, to induce them to comply with the humours of an Assembly, to the prejudice of the prerogative: & tho' in itself the most ungenerous, that can be well imagined, yet had allwise proved effectual, because no private single man was able to hold out against it. It was this, The Assembly, under various pretences, delayed or refused the payment of the sums, which Coll Johnson had advanced for the service of the Gov<sup>t</sup>, some times by directing the payment to be made out of Funds, which they themselves knew to be exhausted, & by the Treasurer (who is the Assembly's creature) his giving preference to Warrants payable to others tho' of posterior Date, & by the Assembly's arbitrarily cutting off some part of his Accounts, tho' they were proved in the manner the Assembly required: This they did without mentioning what articles were disallowed, or giving him any opportunity of proving them, or assigning any reason why they were disallowed. See Minutes of Council of Albany in July last & Coll Johnsons Memorial to his Excellency. By these means near

two thousand pounds of the money which he has advanced, remains still due to him: & this without his chargeing any thing as a Sallery or reward for his services or any interest for the money now several years due to him. After such usage, it could not be expected, that Coll Johnson would go on in the Service of the Gov<sup>t</sup>, by advancing money on the Credit of the Assembly for that Service, while the Assembly not only refused to grant funds as was usual for those Services, but refused to pay what was allready due.

The Act, by which the Garrison at Oswego is supported by a Duty on Rum & strouds sold to the Indians, is contrived in such manner that the Conscientious & fair Trader may be easily entangled, & brought under difficulties, while the fraudulent dealer may gain great advantages over him: & the Collectors of those Duties have it in their power to favour their friends, & distress those they dislike. The Collectors have been so far favoured by the Faction in the Assembly, that tho they have for several years paid nothing of the produce of those Duties as the Act directs into the Treasury, they have never been called to an account for the same. And the Six Nations complain heavily, the Mohawks especially, who live intermixed with the Planters, that they must pay so much more for Rum & strouds, then their neighbours do. There is much reason to think, that all the strouds sent to Canada is exempted from this Duty, whereby the French gain a great advantage over the English fair Trader for these for these goods sold to Frenchmen is not subjected to the Duty whereby the French are enabled to sell the goods, which they buy at Albany, cheaper to the Indians, than the English can do at Oswego But the greatest discouragement in the management of the Indian affairs is by the Indians being instantly cheated by them with whom they deal. This is a mischief that has been long complean'd off, & unless some law were passed for the preventing of it, I know not how it can be remedied. For as the law now stands, an Indian before he can obtain redress must see a Lawyer, must

take out a writ, file a Declaration, & at least wait 12 months for Justice at 2 or 300 miles distance reaching 400 from his habitation, & without one farthing to support him or to defray the charges of the suit. And then his Evidence is not admitted in any of our Courts, nor the evidence of any other Indian. Can these people who are treated in this manner be supposed to be under the Protection of the King of Gr. Brittain? or can they be supposed to be treated like friends or like rational or human creatures? It is but too obvious what the consequences of this Treatment must be

As the Govern<sup>mt</sup> have no funds for paying Sallaries to those who have the care of the Indian affairs they are generally left to the Discretion of the Traders with the Indian who pretend to act without & as they are divided into one set, who trade to Canada, & another who Trade at Oswego or directly with the Indians, these two sets are influencing the Indians in opposition to each other in order to defeat the measures which the other takes The several Colonies likewise have different & Separate Interests, which they severally regard more than the common interest of the whole. Thus Massachusetts bay are at this time endeavouring to draw the Mohawks to settle on their Frontiers, for their security, & the People of Pennsylvania are endeavouring to draw them to the Frontiers of Pennsylvania, & none of them will unite in furnishing a common stock for the wellfair of the whole.

The Assembly, since the year -46, have neglected to give the usual annual supplies for the expense attending the managem<sup>t</sup> of the Indian affairs, till this last year, when they gave a sum for presents to the Indians, & that only after the repeated accounts received of the dissatisfaction the Indians had expressed, of their being totally neglected, since the conclusion of the Peace. But surely no great matters can be expected, from what can be done in eight or ten days time at such interviews with the Governor when at all other times they are neglected. Thus it appears, that the Government of New York was



entirely disabled from taking the usual or any care of the Indian affairs, from the conclusion of the Peace to the spring of the year -51, by the assemblies refusing to grant the usual supplies for that Service, & by their distressing Col Johnson with whom those affairs were intrusted

The Gov<sup>r</sup>, in the conduct of the Indian affairs, is under a double disadvantage. The Assembly will grant His supply, for the usual expense of Commiss<sup>rs</sup> for that Service, unless the Creatures of the Factions be appointed, & who by their past conduct appear no way proper to be intrusted: & on the other hand Coll Johnson by the large sums allowed him for that Service in time of War, & by something in his natural temper suited to the Indian humour, has gained such an ascendancy over them, that they insist on his continueing & will be dissatisfied with any other appointment, as fully appears by the minutes of what passed at Albany in the last meeting with the Indians. Both seem to have its view in opposition to each other to make it impracticable to carry on the Indian affairs unless the one be seperately employed exclusive of the other, & thereby the Gov<sup>t</sup> is disabled to employ either or any other.

I shall next observe on what has been don by the French in Canada in the same time. Tho the gaining the Indians, the preserving them in their fidelity, the keeping them in readiness to join our Forces on the expedition intended against Canada, & the sending out parties of Indians against Canada, was attended with a greater expence, than had ever been incurred on the like Service before. Yet we were assured by the French officers, who came from Canada after the Peace on the Exchange of Prisoners, that the Govt of Canada was at a much greater expence on account of the Indians they employed than we were. Every Indian employed by them occasioned an expence they said, that could not be Credited The power of the Brittish Colonies is so much superior to that of the French, that they could have no hopes of coping with us, in any regular attack with reg-



ular troops or militia; & consequently had no other method of making war but by numerous of their Indians, & which they were therefor under a necessity of procuring at any rate.

The same reasons lay them under a necessity of endeavouring by all means to enlarge & spread their influence among the numerous nations on the Great Continent: and as they could not fail of being assured of the Difficulty the administration in this Gov<sup>t</sup> laboured under they thought it the most proper time to redouble their endeavours; believing that no time could be more proper for an extraordinary expence than this, in order to carry their purposes

With these desires they from time to time sent some of the Caknuaga Indians among the six Nations, to excite them to make incursions on the Southern Indians, in Amity with South Carolina with whom the Six Nations & Caknuagas had both been at War beyond the memory of any man living: thereby to weaken the Indians who depended on the English Colonies & are faithfull to them by setting them on to destroy one another

The Messisagues an Indian Nation who formerly lived to the Northward of the lake Huron & traded with the French, joined with the six Nations in declaring war against Canada. After the Peace, the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada resolved to make this Nation sensible of his resentment, & incited the Utawawas to join him in making War on the Messisagues, this obliged them to leave their Country & come to settle near the Senekas on the East side of Lake Erie & as the Messisagues have received no support or protection from the English any other nation must be deferred from following the example of the Messisagues in joining hereafter with the English. A Considerable Number of Indians Originally of several nations formerly living near Hudson's river, Delaware & Susquehana & several of the six Nations settled near the head of Branch of the Mississipi, called Ohio by the French, & Allegheny by the People of Pensylvania, & with whom a considerable trade is carried on from Pen-

sylvania, & they are in hopes of bringing the Twightures a considerable nation on the same branch more westerly, to join with them & the six Nations in Confederacy. In order to defeat this Union, the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada sent a body of regular troops with a number of Indians to draw off these Indians from the English Interest, by force if it could not be otherwise don. But when the French came they found themselves too weak to attempt any thing by force, & were only able to disturb the English trade, by sending in some of their Indians to surprise the English traders, as they were upon their Journey. Which at several times the French Indians did, & carried the traders to the French Fort at Oniagara, where they were detained prisoners & used with more severity than is used between civilized nations to prisoners in time of War. This is certainly in direct violation of the 19th article in the Treaty of Utrecht, by which a free trade with the Indians is expressly stipulated. But it was don with design to deter the English from any attempts, for the future, to trade with these Nations. If care be not taken to prevent the like again otherwise than by complaints to the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada or Court of France they will at last effectually put an end to that Trade

The French have priests among the several nations in Amity with them as well as smiths & Traders who by presents with which they are furnished out of their Kings stores & by other artifices endeavour to gain the affections of the Indians, & infuse prejudices to the English. The French missions are often among the Six Nations & some of them trade among them tho' they have not been able to settle any priests any where in the villages of the Six Nations. Most of these priests are for the most part engaged at a cheap & easy rate by a spirit of enthusiasm, & others by the hopes of preferment. One lately tried to have admission at Onondaga, but he could not obtain it. This man is now settled on Cadaracknie river, near where it comes from the lake of the same name, His residence being near the five nations, & not far from Oswego, he has all means to draw the Indians

to him, & to gain their affections, by distributing large presents among them, & by other artifices: for which purpose he is not only liberally supplied from the Kings stores, but, it is said, that he is a person of considerable estate, which he converts to the same use, on the promise he has of a Bishoprick after some certain time of service among the Indians

The great advantage the English have over the French is there being able to furnish the Indians with goods at a cheaper rate than the French can, to remove this disadvantage, as much as possible the French officer at Oniagara has orders, to sell goods as cheap or cheaper, than is don at Oswego; tho' it should be don with the loss of 30,000 livres a year, which he is promised shall be recompensed out of the Kings Stores or from the Treasury The Indians, who trade at Oswego generally pass by Oniagara. The french hope that if they can once persuade the Indians that they sell as cheap or cheaper than the English, the grand objection which the Indians make to them erecting fortified trading houses, will be removed. & if they can once be well secured by fortifications, at all the passes between the lakes, they can then speak in a different tone to the Indians: & by force prevent their going to Trade any where but with them. The French have already a Fort, & a settlement of French Farmers sufficient to supply themselves with Provisions, at a place Called Detroit between Lake Erie & the Lake of the Hurons. But the five Nations would never suffer any Fortification, at the streights between Lake Erie & Cadaracknie Lake, till since Queen Annes War the French obtained leave to build a store house, to save their goods in transportation over the pass between the lakes which they insensibly fortified. But now they are attempting a Fortification of a different kind, which, if they can accomplish & finish as it is projected will be of great consequence, not only as it will keep the Six Nations at all times in awe, but likewise intercept all the Indians to the Westward of it & where the great bever hunting, is in their way to trade with the English Be-



sides these Forts, the French keep a small armed Sloop on Cadarackni lake, which may be of great consequence in preventing trade with Oswego. The Six Nations in general are very sensible how much their Liberty will be affected by these forts, & are much displeased with them, tho the French by presents & other artifices gain some particular Indians to favour their designs. The Indians would gladly prevent the building of these forts but they have such an opinion of the French power & good Policy that they dare not attempt anything of themselves by force, while they can not depend on being effectually supported by the English, which our Conduct of late has given them too good reason to doubt of.

The English only complain, & expostulate with the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada or the Court of France. The French give amusing or evasive answers, but still go on in their works, & in pursueing their grand design: till they shall have brought their work to such perfection, that they can without fear avow their Intention.

The grand advantage the French have is, that their affairs among the Indians are all directed by one Council, & no expence is thought too great, which is necessary for their purposes at the same time it is certainly true that they do perform the same service at half the expence the English do I shall now humbly submit my opinion, of what may be proper to be don in order to secure the fidelity of the Indian Nations allready in Amity with the English Colonies, to promote our Interest & Trade among them & all the other nations in North America, & defeat the Designs of the French to our prejudice For these purposes, It seems in the first place necessary to take off all Duties & imports from the goods used in the Indian trade. For since the principal advantage the English have over the French is, in their being able to furnish the Indians with goods at a cheaper rate, the laying duties on Indian goods is in a great measure giving up that advantage. Besides by the artifices used in collecting these duties, the Trade is much hampered, & the



fair trader discouraged, & the knavish part of the Traders get an advantage of the honest.

Next, Some law ought to be passed, whereby the Indians, on their Complaints, may get justice don them speedily, by summary process. And that, in all dealings between Indians & Christians, Indian evidence be allowed They, who are acquainted with the Indians & the Indian traders, I am confident, will allow that the Indians have the telling a lye in evidence as much in abhorrence, as the traders have the swearing a falsehood.

After long observation of the conduct of Indian affairs I am of opinion, that they can be only well managed by one Single person of sufficient ability as superintendent of Indian affairs who shall not be allowed to trade in any shape, directly or indirectly. For all the abuses & negligencies in the management of these affairs have arisen, from the private views the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> of Indian have had, to promote their own trade, & to lay the other traders under difficulties & disadvantages. This of the trade raises perpetual Jealousies among the people employed in it & likewise with our neighbouring Colonies & brings the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> into Contempt among the Indians many instances of which can be given, & are well known to all who have any knowledge of the Indian affairs. If the Frauds & abuses in Trade be not effectually prevented, it will be impossible otherwise to preserve the affections of the Indians These abuses can no way be prevented but by appointing some single person of sufficient ability, & with authority to redress the Injuries which the Indians receive, & to prevent their receiving the like for the future. & that he have an allowance, sufficient to encourage a gentleman fitly qualified for these purposes.

That he be enabled to send Smiths to reside among the Indians, men of the best probity & sense that can be found for that purpose: & to send other Messengers, both Indians & Christians to the distant nations upon any emergency, & as occasion shall require

No doubt it will be of great use to have missionary

preachers settled, in as many places, as their can be requisite funds found for their subsistence. It is hoped the Societies in England, for propogating the Gospel & Christian knowledge in foreign parts, will contribute to the utmost of their ability. In this case, much will depend on the choice of the persons & they must be subject to the direction of the superintendant of Indian affairs, & correspond constantly with him

The Superintendant ought constantly to correspond with the Board of Trade, & with all the Governors on the Continent of North America, to give & receive intelligence & advice. So far I think it necessary, & perhaps may be sufficient, to promote our Interest & Trade among the Indians, if the Designs & Enterprises of the French were not at the same hour to be guarded against. For this purpose I am of opinion, the building a sloop of force at Oswego, in order to cruise the whole summer on Cadarackni Lake, would be of great use because all the Indians & Traders, who go or come from the Indian Nations to the Westward, & all the Fur Trade passes through this lake This vessel may carry goods to several parts round this lake at stated times at which times the Indians living round the lake and at a distance from it may come by apointment advice to purchase those goods at the cheapest rates She ought to be of such force, as not to be under any apprehensions from the small sloop, which the French have on the same lake. This I hinted to Mr. Clark several years since, & I was told that he proposed it to the board of Trade, & I have since often heard your Excell<sup>y</sup> mention it, as a thing you thought would be of great use

Next to make a settlement & some kind of Fortification at Frontegnât which is in Cadarackni lake about half way between Oswego & Oniagara where the French are now building their Fort. This has likewise been long in thought, as the land there is very good, & fit for a settlement, & has been purchased of the Indians for that purpose. The uses of this Fort & settlement are 1st, That is is the pass from Canada to the Senekas Country.

2d That in case the French obstructed the passage at Oniagara, the Indians, by making a circuit within land, could come to this place to Trade 3, It may be very convenient on many occasions as a harbour for the sloop proposed to built on the lake, 4 If we do not take possession of it, the French will, which they have again & again attempted. & Lastly in case of war it will be of great use for securing the Fidelity of the Senekas & Cayugas & neighbouring Indians & a necessary step if any design should be formed against the French Fort at Oniagara. The sloops being first built would much facilitate the settlement at Frondegnat. These things are all that I think necessary & practicable at this time. It remains only to show, how a fund may be found, for the necessary expence attending these services proposed to be don.

This I think may be don, by a Duty on all wines & spirits, imported into or made in any of the Colonies of North America, & I am persuaded it will be sufficient for all the purposes before proposed, if the same be duly collected. It can be no prejudice to Trade, as it is general on all the Colonies whereas now, a Duty is laid on Spirits in some of the Colonies, while others are free, which lays the one under a disadvantage on their Trades from which the others are free: but in this case, all being equal it must fall on the consumers on whom it cannot be a hardship or if they think it hard may forbear the use of these liquors. So far as I can apprehend, it can be no disadvantage to trade, except on one instance, that is, on the exportation of Spirits from North America to the coast of Africa; for purchasing of Slaves; in which case, if thought necessary, the Duty may be drawn back. 40 Sh on every pipe of wine & three pence Sterl. on every Gall<sup>o</sup> of Spirits may be sufficient. See from the Custom house books of New York the Quantity of Spirit & number of pipes imported in a year. It is true, that Spirits make considerable part of the trade with the Indians, but if it be considered that there is now a duty of one shilling a Gallon on all Rum, sold at Oswego or to our Indians to the Westward of Albany, for the support of



the Garrison at Oswego, & notwithstanding of this we can undersell the French in this article It may be presumed, that the Duty of three pence <sup>per</sup> Gallon cannot hurt the Trade with the Indians, more especially when this Trade is to be freed, from all other imports, & the Traders from many difficulties they now labour under As this Duty is proposed to be general over all the Colonies it must be imposed by Act of Parliament; because it would be a most vain imagination to expect, that all the Colonies would severally agree to impose it.

Now S<sup>r</sup>, I have as far as I am capable, given your Excell<sup>y</sup> the present state of affairs between the English & French Colonies & the Indians & of what I think at this time necessary to secure their fidelity, promote the Brittish Trade & defeat the Interprises of the French to our prejudice. One thing remaining farther to be considered is, to secure our frontiers from the Incursions of the French Indians, in case of any future War. If what I have allready proposed be effectually put in creation, it will in a great measure secure the Colonies from such like attempts; because in such case the French will have too much to fear, wantonly to provoke us, by the invasions of the few Indians, that in such case will be under their direction. But notwithstanding of this, it would be imprudent not to take what care we can against these Dangers, & the time of peace is the only proper time to do it. In time of War we shall have too many things on our hands, & a great expence otherwise unavoidable. We may learn from our natural Ennemies the French of Canada, what is proper to be don. As soon as a peace is concluded, they begin to take all the proper precaution for their security against a Succeeding War.

The french fort at Crown point is of little consequence as to trade, only so far, that it puts it in the power of the French to incourage or stop the Trade between Albany & Canada, at their pleasure, as they shall, under any change of circumstances, think it most for their benefite. But, as I think, it would be most for the Brittish interest to have that trade entirely stopt. I am under no concern



for what difficulties it may be laid under. Perhaps this Trade alone secures the Caknuagas in the French Interest, by the particular benefite they reap, by being the common carriers between the Dutch at Albany & the French. If they were deprived of this benefite, they would find it for their Interest to return to the five Nations, from whom they are originally deserters & speak the same language. However this may be, it is certainly necessary to build one or more Forts, near the carrying place between Hudsons river & the Wood Creek, in the way from Albany to Canada: as by this pass, the French Indians make their Incursions, in time of War on New York & New England. The Principal use of the French Fort, S<sup>t</sup> Frederic, on Crown point, at the South end Lake Champlain, is to defend Canada against Invasions from New York or New England, & to make incursions from thence on these Provinces, & therefor it becomes necessary to have one or more forts at this pass, to prevent these incursions, & which may likewise prevent any commerce with Canada, which hereafter may be thought prejudicial to the safety or Interest of the Brittish Colonies. As these Forts will be a security to all the Northern Colonies, the expence of building & supporting them ought to be a general charge on all. The Frontier Province must unavoidably suffer many inconveniences, in time of War. especially, from which the others are freed, & from which they are freed by these being frontiers to them, & therefore it is highly reasonable that the others should contribute to the charge of the defence of them. And the others being at a Distance from the Frontiers makes them more able to bear the charge. But from what has been perpetually observed on this head in all times passed it is not to be hoped that the other Colonies will contribute to this charge in such proportion as they aught if they do it in proportion otherwise than by being compelled to it by some superior authority

This memorial has run out into a much greater length than I intended or expected it would but as I believe that your Excellency may design it for the use of those

who may otherwise have little or no knowledge of the Indian affairs I thought it necessary to give a circumstantial account of them which however is humbly submitted to your Excellency's correction Judgement & Experience in those affairs by S<sup>r</sup>

New York  
Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 1751

Your Excellency<sup>s</sup>

Most obedient & most humble servant

*From John Rutherford*

LONDON August 16, 1751

Sir

Nothing is yet determined that's made at least anent New York affairs else should have acquainted you of it. The Council have late, made A Report to His Majesty of some things & referred others to the Board of Trade. Chief Justice Morris had A Commission made out for being L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> having been recommended failing of you by Gov<sup>r</sup> Clintown. The Ministry had received bad impressions of you which I don't doubt but the Gov<sup>r</sup> will wipe off on his Arrival & possibly I might ere now had I seen The Duke of Argyle but he went for Scotland as I arrived here & I've seen none of the Gov<sup>rs</sup> friends. I gave your Manuscript to Mr Collinson & 'twill be printed immediately he told me of your application for Post Master General & we were sorry you had been too late, Dr Mitchel 'tis thought will be appointed, I sent him your letter by my Servant but have not Seen him. I hope this will find you in quiet possession of the Government & long to hear how all goes that I may give you your Titles in my Next. I'm in a good deal of hurry now going to Scotland tomorrow so must Conclude with our best respects to you Your Lady & Family I am

Dear Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> and most humble  
Servant

JOHN RUTHERFURD

*James Alexander's Notes on the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada's Letter  
of Aug 10<sup>th</sup> 1751*

his Excellencys Letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> of june last if I remember right, represented to the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada, the infractions of the 15<sup>th</sup> article of the Treaty of Utrecht in regard to the fortification building at Niagara on the Lands of the five nations & nearby in the midle of their Country, and in regard to four English Indian traders who were in time of peace Supposed to be taken prisoners upon Ohio river and plundered of their merchandize which his Excellency Supposed was without the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada's knowledge or Consent, but requesting his Enquiry into these things & if found true to Desist from buildings to Set the prisoners at Liberty & to recompense them for their Damages

the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada by his answer of Augt. 18<sup>th</sup> Confesses the things complained of to be true—does not deny them to be infractions of the treaty of Utrecht—but advances a number of facts groundless & false in themselves which (Says he) had they been known at the Treaty of Utrecht & Aix La Chapelle the Dominion of England over the five nations would not have been acknowledged by his master the King of France but rather that of his master says that the four prisoners are taken tradeing with the Indians at Ohio contrary to an ordnance of his forbidding the English to trade there tho that be a Country belonging to the five nations, and the Twightures & other Indians upon it who are not natives of the five nations have been long agoe received by this Government in to the Same Covenant claim with the five nations

This seems treating his Britannick Majesty and the Treatys of Utrecht & Aix La Chapelle with contempt and The Letter Seems (what he Says) beyond an answer for the very answering would it Seems be admitting Solemn treaties to be called in question—if any answer be thought of to him it aught to be with the utmost caution & deliberation & best advice possible



It would seem proper that one Copy of the Letter be sent forth with to the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Pensilvania, for his Sentiments upon it, as the prisoners belonged to that Government and a great part of Ohio river is actually within the Grant to the proprietarys of Pensilvania

it would Seem also proper that other Coppies be Laid before his Majesty's ministers for redress from the Court of France & that the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada may be recalled & punished for the infractions of the treatys & Contempts Expressed in his Letter

So far on the Letter in general,

I shall now make Some remarks upon some of the paragraphs of the Letter

No. 1. to Deny that the five nations ever were Subjects of the King of Great Brittain when his Dominion over them as Expressly acknowledged by the 15<sup>th</sup> article of the Treaty of Utrecht is a piece of unparalleled Effrontery—The Sentiments which he there Says the five nations have are what the French have been impressing them with for many years with the utmost application and I wish they may not have prevailed too far, and if other measures be not Speedily taken as to Indian affairs, there's no Small probability they will prevail

No. 2 I do not believe it true that the french were the first white people that appeared upon the Lands of the five nations, its near 140 years agoe Since the Dutch Settled at Albany and Schenectady which places are part of the Countries that did then belong to five nations as appears by the registers of Indian affairs here & other authentick monuments, and I question if the five nations had then or for scores of years after ever made friendship with the french because of the assistance that the french from their first coming to America always gave to the Algonquins the most ancient & inveterate Enemies of the five nations

No. 3 I know of no possession that the french had of any part of the Country of the Five nations till long after their Submission to the Dominion of Great Brittain and Some five years before the revolution and the



first possession of the french of any part of their country was I believe at Cataracque, and that was no more at first than Leave from the five nations to build a tradeing house in their Country for their convenience but they afterwards having fortified that place the five nations took it from them twice, and tho at the peace they made with the french in 1694 (because not assisted in the war by any of the English Colonies but New York & found that they give them not sufficient assistance) the french insisted upon settleing again at Cataracque yet the five nations absolutely refused their Consent to it as appears by the Indian Registers here

The french possession at Detroit was not full after the peace of Reswick & it appears these Encroachments were generously complained of by the five nations to the Gov<sup>r</sup> of New York and they insisted then that his Britannick Majesty should apply to the french King for redress, for that the Converting these Settlements into fortifications they Saw might in time deprive them of their bever hunting Country which Extends from Cataracque Lake to the Northermost part of the Hurons Lake bounded on the Southward by Lake Erie & the Detroit, and I Suppose it was the many applications to the Court of Great Brittain after the peace of Reswick & during Queen Annes war against those encroachments of the french, that induced the Court of Great Brittain to insist at the treaty of Utrecht upon an absolute acknowledgement of the Dominion of Great Brittain over the five nations which was Conceded to by the 15th article as to the time of their settleing first near Niagara it was only about the year 1720.

& these 3 are the only settlements I know of that the French have in the Country of the 5 Nations how far these (complained of as before) will be from supporting that assertion of the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada, I submit No. 4 the Settlement he is now makeing at Niagara into a fortification is done on the Sight & in defiance of the five nations & of the Treaty of Utrecht The Last Conference with the five nations at Albany in July last will show how far

they are from Consenting to it—they are too Sensible of the Consequence of it ever in their Senses to Consent—possibly the pretence he has in saying that its only for a place of refreshment for travellers, may with large presents have persuaded on some particular men of the five nations to Consent to it, as was done at their former Settlements of Cataracque Detroit & near Niagara, but by experience the five nations have found those refreshing places turned into Fortifications in Defyance of them and that they help them against the Treaty of Utrecht and all the applications that have been made for redress and by means of these they will before long if a proper remedy be not found not only Deprive the five nations of their bever hunting Country but Stop all intercourse between the English & the five nations of indians in allyance with the five nations, as Niagara is the Rout by which they come

As to the four prisoners it would Seem that the Governour of Pensilvania is the most proper person to make remarks on that part of the Letter that Concerns them

In the Extracts from the Indian Registers herewith

Made Aug<sup>t</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>  
sent one copy to Gov<sup>r</sup>  
Clinton & another to  
Dr. Mitchell

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*James Alexander to John Mitchell*

NEW YORK Aug<sup>t</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1751

Sir

having yesterday on my arrival here from New jersey rec<sup>d</sup> a packet from D<sup>r</sup> Colden enclosing a Letter to you & the State of the indian affairs herewith inclosed, he Desired me to peruse that State and if any thing occurred to me theron to be added or altered to make notes thereof to you, I have accordingly perused it again and again but find nothing that I think necessary to add to or alter in it nor Should I have troubled you with this had it not been that his Ex<sup>cy</sup> our Gov<sup>r</sup> Sent me yesterday, a Letter to him from the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada of Aug<sup>t</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> instant for

my perusal & to make Some observations upon it to him (he being at present in the Country for the benefite of his health) which I accordingly did & thought a Coppy of that Letter & of those observations & of Some Extracts I made from the Indian registers might be a proper appendix to Doctor Colden's state, and as Such I Enclose them to you and am

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*Extracts from the Register of Indian affairs in Albany*

August 16<sup>th</sup> 1694. In the Speech of the 5 Nations to Gov<sup>r</sup> Fletcher Giving an account of the Propositions they had Sent to the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada for a peace 9<sup>th</sup> article is "Onnoudro (that's the Name they Give to the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada)

"Wee will admitt of no Settlement at Cataracqui, you have had your Fire there Twice, which we have Quenched and therefore will not Consent To any Re-building There"

In their answers to Gov<sup>r</sup> Fletcher on Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 1694 they say "we have told the Gov<sup>rs</sup> of Canada That He Shall not Rebuild Cataracqui; and if we Come to Discourse him again Shall Tell him plainly that we will not admitt it

His Excellency tells them if they will admitt The French to Rebuild that fort or any other fort on This Side of the Lake it will Bring them and their posterity in perpetual Slavery and therefore his Excellency Expects that they will Give him Notice if Ever the French Should attempt it that he may march up Thither with force To Hinder him from making any infringement on his Masters Territories, And Expects that the five Nations will assist him therein Else it will Shake the Covenant Chain

They answer

We are glad your Excellency Renews that to us, we Shall never Suffer that Place to be Rebuilt—it has Been ominous to us, our People Having Been Betrayed there



July 19<sup>th</sup> 1701 Part of the Speech of the 5 Nations to Lieut. Gov<sup>r</sup> Nanfan

Article 3. We Complain of the french of Canada's in-croaching upon our Territories; and that they go and Build forts upon our lands without our Consent we pray that the great King of England may Be acquainted with it Do give 10 Bevers

Article 7. We Desire that our Secretary Robert Livingston may be Sent To *Korackkow* (the name they give to the King of England) the Great King of England To Acquaint him how that the french of Canada in-croach upon our Territories By Building a fort at *Tejughsaghrondie* (What the french Call *le Detroit*)—and to pray that our Great King may use all means to Prevent it; Else we Shall Be So Tied up we Shall not Be able to Live—They will Come Nearer and Nearer Every Day with their Forts—we Do give up and Render all That Land where the Bever Hunting is which we won with the Sword Eighty Years Agoe. To Corackkow our Great King, and pray that he may Be our Protector and Defender there and Desire that our Secretary will write an Instrument which we will Sign and Seal that it may Be Carried By him to The King—for if he Does not go there is So much Business, this will Be only Read, Laid aside, and forgot; But if he goes we are Sure we Shall have an answer—Do give 10 Beavers

Article 12<sup>th</sup> of Same Speech

Brother Corlaer

The Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada has Sent a party of Men who are gone Behind our Country privately To Build a fort at *Tejughsaghrondie* you are Desirous to Know what we have Done in that Case—your People who have Been at Onondaga Can tell you we Thought this government would have Done Something In this and to have found you Busy in your Books and Maps (meaing that the Line Should Be Run between The Two Governments) we Can Do Nothing In the Case you know we have not Power to Resist Such a Christian Enemy, therefore we must Depend—Upon you Brother Corlaer to take this



Case in hand and acquaint the Great King with it—for what will Become of us at this Rate where Shall we Hunt a Beavor if the french of Canada Take possession of our Beavor Country—Do give 9 Beavers and 2 others N.B Robert Livingston Did go Soon after to England and Probably Carried that Deed to the King with him and Prosecuted the Complaints of the Indians about Cataracque and Tejughsaghronsie. But the wars of Queen Anne Happening Soon after Rendered it Impossible to Do any thing In the matter then By Negotiation with France but the Complaints then made By him in Behalf of the five nations, and the Complaints of the Sachems that went with Coll Schuyler a few years after I suppose were the occasion of the 15 article of the Treaty of Utrecht—the Deed I Suppose is to be found with the Board of Trade—after the peace I know of No Care that was taken to get the french Disposessed of Cataracqui and Tejughsaghrondie which Encouraged them about the year 1720. To make a further Settlement near Niagara in the Country of the five Nations which was By the Indians Complained of to Gov<sup>r</sup> Burnet and By him to the Court of Great Brittain But no Redress Ever was obtained on any of these Encroachments, which now Induces them to make this attempt of Building a fortification at the very carrying Place of Niagara By which they Can Exclude the five Nations from their Beavor Country and Stop all intercourse Between the English and the far Indians—not Doubting Before Redress Can Be had that the fortification will Be finished, and when So, they have no fears about Delivering it up

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*From James Alexander*

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

NEW YORK Aug<sup>t</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1751

On my return from jersey on Sunday last I received yours of the 17<sup>th</sup> which was very agreeable to me as I found thereby you had recovered your health perfectly

I carefully perused your State of the Indian affairs

and saw nothing to add to or alter in it and shall forward it with your Letters to Collison & Michell by the Dover whereof the master has appointed to call here to morrow for money on freight & shall then give them to his Especial care to be Delivered with money to Collison

The Gov<sup>r</sup> has rec<sup>d</sup> a Letter from the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada of Augt 10<sup>th</sup> last in answer to his of june 12<sup>th</sup> which he Sent to me to make my remarks on it, & Doctor Ayscough told me the Gov<sup>r</sup> intends to Send it to you I sent him yesterday my remarks & some Extracts from the Indian register wherof I send you coppie herewith or rather the first draughts I thought these with a Coppy of the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canadas Letter might also be proper to Communicate to Doctor Mitchell I have got Coppies of these to Send & shall this day with my own hand make a coppy of the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canadas Letter for him & herewith I also Send you the Draught of my Letter to Doctor Mitchell

I had a Letter from Ch J Morris via Philadelphia of May 11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> with the Kings Mandamus's appointing Lewis Ashfield & David Ogden of the Council of New jersey in place of John Coxe displaced and of Richard Smith Deceased—the board of trade upon the receipt of Gov<sup>r</sup> Belchers Letters Sent for Chief justice Morris & took his recommendation of these Gentlemen and rejected Gov<sup>r</sup> Betshers, which I hear very much netles Some people in Jersey

Mr Bradley died yesterday morning, and as Mr Smith had reason to believe that application would be immediately made to the Gov<sup>r</sup> in favour of another he desired me to go with him to the Gov<sup>r</sup> at flatbush & we went yesterday before noon, and as he imagined, application had been made, but his Excellency answered that it was Engaged and on our arrival there Doctor Ayscough showed us a Letter he had finished acquainting us So & with his Ex<sup>ys</sup> mention to give it to Mr Smith which was very agreeable both to Smith & me—We met Ben Nichols coming back from flatbush & Dined with his Excellency, & the Mayor & Mr Chambers also dined with his Excellency

Our jersey assembly is to meet the 4<sup>th</sup> of September at Burlington and I intend to Sett and to attend it on the Sunday following

I think of nothing further of news to acquaint you with I am

Dear Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To The honourable  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att  
Coldingham

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK Sep<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1751

Dear Sir

Last night I had the favour of yours of the 3<sup>d</sup> and am glad you are nearly of my opinion as to the Observations on the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada's Letter, I am entirely of yours in what you observe on it; before I wrote to you the Gov<sup>r</sup> had got two Coppies of the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada's Letter to Send to the Board of trade & Secretary of State & I suppose he also Sent coppies of the notes & Extracts I Suppose he will Send Coppy of the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canadas Letter to Gov<sup>r</sup> Hamilton & then let that matter rest till he has directions from home

I have given a brief account of this matter to Chief justice Morris & acquainted him with the papers Sent to Dr Mitchell thro P Collison & recommended his being introduced to Dr Mitchells acquaintance by Mr Collison, —& that it behoves the proprietors of Pensilvania particularly to bestirr themselves in this matter not only for the protection of their traders but also for the preservation of the bounds of their grant, and who are particularly obliged to Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton for bringing that matter to a plain issue as appears by the Letters past on that head Laid before the ministry



My Son, his wife, & child, have taken a voyage to Albany for their health & Diversion & I Don't Expect them back for three weeks—but I desire my wife to take Equal care of your Letters as of mine & so Send them forthwith to M<sup>r</sup> Nichols, the jersey assembly is adjourned for a week so that I Don't intend to Set out till to morrow Seven night; I am in hopes to be back the first week of October, when or Soon after I hope his Excellency may be able to Let you go home for I am very Sensible of the inconvenience of your being absent from your family both to you & Mrs Colden, but there's an absolute necessity of your being here at the beginning of the Session as things are circumstanced.

A vessall from New Castle arrived two days agoe who brings an account that he Spoke with a Lisbon ship going into the Channel, who told him (as he & all the Ships Company understood) that the french & Spaniards had taken Gibraltar by Surprise its very probably true, the Embargoe at Cadiz and the Spaniards takeing all English vessells they meet with, & the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada's Letter, all Look like resolutions of the french & Spaniards for another warr I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To The honourable  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att Coldingham

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*From Cadwallader Colden to George Clinton*

[Copy]

COLDENHAM Sept<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1751

S<sup>r</sup>

I have received D<sup>r</sup> Ayscough's letter inclosing the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada's answer to your Excellencys letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> of June and Mr Alexander has sent me a copy of the remarks he has made thereon I think what M<sup>r</sup> Alexander writes is so just & so full an answer that it is not necessary



to add any thing to them The facts which your Excellency alleged & complained of as infractions of the Treaties of Utrecht & Aix la Chapelle are all confessed by the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada & the matters he brings in Justification are evidently false or merely evasive as Mr Alexander observes

Mr Alexander leaves it to the Gov<sup>t</sup> of Pennsylvania to make the proper remarks on what the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada says the English traders being taken by the French among the Indian Nations in amity with the English no doubt they can more fully answer the particulars alledged by the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada then We can but supposing all to be true which he asserts, 1 That they were found conveneing with those Indian Nations after Mons<sup>r</sup> Celeron had forbid the English to Trade with them 2 That they carried presents to these nations & not Merchandise which however it will not be easy to prove because any quantity of Merchandize may be deemed presents. 3 That they were found with that Nation which had revolted from the French & joined the five Nations in the last war 4 That one of these English Traders understands the language of all the far Indian Nations admitting I say all this to be true (& nothing farther is alledged) does it follow that these men were inciting the Indian Nations to destroy the French I think on the contrary it evidently appears that the French are resolved to destroy the Brittish Trade Among all the Indian Nations where ever they can & that these pretences of the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada are only very thin colourings to cover his designs These Matters are now brought to a proper state for the cognizance of his Majesty's ministers & I am of opinion that your Excellency must leave them there for further orders & instructions

The Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada makes some remarks on M<sup>r</sup> Cuyler's behaviour for which reason perhaps it may be proper for your Excell<sup>y</sup> to observe to the L<sup>ds</sup> of Trade that the Assembly makes no provision for any contingent Services that none will undertake any Service attended with expence on the Credit of the Gov<sup>t</sup> & that if

your Excell<sup>y</sup> had advanced money you have reason to think from what has been formerly don that the Assembly would only have taken advantage of it to obtain farther compliances in order that your Excell<sup>y</sup> might obtain the payment of the mony you should have advanced & therefore you was under a necessity of employing a person who was desirous to go to Canada on account of some private affairs he had to transact there & whom otherwise you would not have thought proper to be employed

I have some affairs at a distance from my house which I have for some years neglected & my late indisposition & the hot weather this summer made it not safe for me to travil I intend now to go from home & expect to be absent about 8 or 10 days I suppose your Excellency does not intend to meet the Assembly till some time after Dean shall arive & therefore I hope to hear again from your Excellency before it shall be necessary for me to attend at New York I am

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK Sep<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1751

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

I wrote to you a few days agoe in ans<sup>r</sup> to your last to me—your Letters to Collinson & Mitchell went in the Dover under Cover to W<sup>m</sup> Richards the master not to be opened till his arriveal in London—and also wrote on back of Collisons—to be Delivered by Capt Richards with his own hand—the Dover Sailed on Sunday last

Yesternight arrived here Capt Dean, by whom I have no Letters but one from Barclay & Son of June 17<sup>th</sup> I hear no news nor does Kennedy whom I have Seen this morning—wherfore the news about Gibraltar must not be true—I have at last gott Halley's astronomical tables in this ship, and Voltaires Explanation of Sir Isaac Newtons Philosophy

Dean arrived at Duskirk last night, I sent one of the prentices to attend the reading of the Letters off at the Coffee House, for you & me, he came & told me that half the Letters were carried to the one Coffee house & half to the other, but none were read off where he was, wherfore he went to the other & heard one was read off for me, and that Some lady had taken it, I Sent him back to Search the Letters to See if it or any for you remained—he found none but Learned Sergeant Young's Son had taken mine wherupon I Sent there to get it—This way of Divideing the Letters Exposes them to be Lost much more than when together in one place—its what I did not know of before, otherwise I Should have Sent one to Each Coffee house

I set out for Burlington on Sunday next and hope to be there on Wednesday, I think of nothing to add

Since writting the above Staats Morris came over from flatbush this morning says the Gov<sup>r</sup> & family are all well, that the Gov<sup>r</sup> had rec<sup>d</sup> his Letters by Dean this morning a few minutes before he came away, and that there was one from Chief justice Morris to the Gov<sup>r</sup> amongst them, heard no news came to See if I had any—I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To The honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att Coldingham

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*From James Colden*

....b<sup>r</sup>: 1751

D: Brother

I received yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> of June and would have an<sup>srd</sup> it much Sooner but that I inclined to have Seen Captain Rutherford first, but tho he came to Scotland Some weeks past I hear he is not yet come to his house



and it being twenty long miles betixt his house and mine I do not incline to ride so far till I hear he is come to his house I wrote M<sup>r</sup> James Davidson So Soon as I could get a direction for him for he hath left of his business he wrote me that he knew his brother at London had received the money you remitted to him on M<sup>r</sup> Lithgows account, but could not account for his not writting you a receipt of it, he wrot also that he was expecting an acquittance for you from M<sup>r</sup> Lithgow in a few days which So Soon as he received he would transmit to you. My family are much as they were when I wrote last Cad is now quite recovered by using a mineral well lately discovered near Dunse and John is at Glasgow improving him Self in the weaver business we have Sad accounts of the cruelties used by the Indians on our Countrymen at Nova Scotia but as they are printed by a Jacobite news writer we hope the case is not So bad as he represents it there have been Some Shoking and unnatural murders committed this Somer, a young Lady poisoned her own Father and M<sup>r</sup> Ninian Home his widow had her throat cut in her bed by her own man Serv<sup>t</sup> my wife and Children desire to be affectionately remembered to you your wife and children. to [yourself] with all my heart I wish all happyness

D Brother

Your Affectionate Brother

JAMES COLDEN

Direct for Brother JAMES COLDEN to the care of Mr JOHN BELL merchant in Berwick

[Indorsed]

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at New York

R-d at N-York April 1752

Answered De<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1752

*From Elizabeth De Lancey*

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Oct 2<sup>d</sup> 1751 nine o'clock at night

About an hour ago I had the favour of a short letter from you of Sep<sup>r</sup> 30 I didn't know till then that you



was at York. I hope I sha'n't mis the satisfaction of seeing you here before you return—& wish it might be this week because I shall be alone & therefore have the more enjoymment of your company, Mr De Lancey talks of going to York tomorrow morning I hope you may see him. My Son Peter is still at his Aunt Watt's, I had a letter from her with yours She talks of coming here to spend some days next week, I am glad to find she was so good to send Peter to see you, she says twice. Nancy is at the Chief Justice's her Aunt De Lancey was so kind to invite her to go there to see if change of air would recover her quite to her health having still a little fever hanging about her, I shall be glad to hear she has been to see you if you should come up in a chair with no other company I should be glad Sir if you would please to bring one or both of the Children with you if it will not be inconvenient Please Sir to take the trouble to send to Parkers for a litle Book Sister Jane recommends, call'd the Economy of human life & if you get it please to send it up to me by the Bearer. When you write to Coldenham I beg my duty to my Mother & thanks for her letter & my best affections to my Sisters & Brothers, Stephen offers his duty to you none of the other Children are up or would be forward to do the same. Oliver is not quite free of the fever at night but is very lively all day the rest of us enjoy health which that you may long be bless'd with is the prayer of Dr Sir

Your most dutyfull & obedient Daughter

ELIZ. DE LANCEY

Thursday morning, Since I wrote my letter I mention'd to Mr De Lancey that I would be glad if the Kitteren could be sent down for you & he freely propos'd going in it himself so that I hope Sir I shall have the pleasure of seeing you tomorrow. please to bring the Children with you, if it will suit you to come you can send Closs if you please to tell Nancy to be ready when you call I shall order him to wait on you, Aly offers her duty.

[Indorsed]

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att New York

*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK Dec<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1751

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

this morning I received yours of Nov<sup>r</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> & Dec<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> with the Manuscript of Bacons Rebellion which is much more particular than any thing I have Seen before of that matter

I Did not think of that Effect of the Dissolution which you mention till I read yours & it Seems one very good Effect

I have not heard of any Design of the Mohawks to go to Canada, but if we knew it what can the Gov<sup>r</sup> & Council do, there's no reason they Should Engage their own Estates

A Gentleman a few days agoe who desired his name to be privat came & had a pretty Long Discourse with me on the present posture of our affairs, and of the means to have a better assembly—he was of opinion that its the power of the C.J. that Chiefly gives him his great influence among more to fear of that than Love of him, that as that power cannot be absolutely taken from him the only thing that can be done is to Lessen that power which might be in great measure Effectuated, if a 3<sup>d</sup> could be found of good Sense Spirit and independent Estate one who is Sensible & all along has been of the pernicious Consequence to this province of that influence & who could Endeavour to abate it, that Gen<sup>t</sup> named R R Livingston as the person. As my asking whether he was Sure that he would accept—he assured me that he would, and further that his father would on the new Election Stand for the mannor of Livingston, and doubted not of having his nephews consent, and if he should refuse his Consent that he had a great majority of free traders in his part of the mannor & So could carry it that he, as his Son, was fully Sensible that the late behaviour of the Assembly in relation to Indian affair was most pernicious to the province, & would use his best Endeavours with

his fellow members to alter their Conduct—upon the whole I consented to propose the matter to the Gov<sup>r</sup>, whom I have not Seen Since

Yesterday I communicated this matter to the Attorney Gen we Considered R R L's relations in blood to the C & J Livingston & H: Beekman, which indeed are near and which staggered me a little, but upon the whole we believed that R R L's good Sense Spirit and independence, could over ballance that relation

he was of opinion that I Should not Speak of the matter to any one but the Gov<sup>r</sup> & your Self, & that Either the Gov<sup>r</sup> or I should write this matter to you for your opinion, for till that be had I shall not be for any final resolution

tho I have not Seen the Gov<sup>r</sup> to mention this matter yet I was unwilling to miss this opportunity of informing you of this matter for your opinion & shall acquaint the Gov<sup>r</sup> that I have so done

I Doubt not your privacy of this matter—I think of nothing to add but that I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

I recollect now that the Mohawks were about to go to Canada to apologize for the murders—what can the Council do in it—I wish you had mentioned what you thought was in their power—I am Sure I See nothing in their power

[Indorsed]

To The honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldingham

*Extract from Mr. Catherwood's Letter to  
George Clinton*

Last week I had Orders to attend L<sup>t</sup> Hallifax, who is appointed Secretary for the Plantations, or at least an additional Power is vested in the Board of Trade, touching the Colonies, which are not yet fully known, and his



Lordship asked me, when I expected your Ex<sup>lly</sup> home, and what was the Cause of the last Dissolution, which last I answered in as clear a Light as I possibly could, by telling him the Assembly had totally refused supporting the Indians, and not doing common Justice to the Servants of the Province, who had advanced their own Money, on the publick Faith, and notwithstanding they had given in their Demands sworn to & approved by y<sup>r</sup> Ex<sup>lly</sup>: in Council, the Assembly had struck off great part of their just Accounts, except to such as were their own Creatures, and that from the information you had from Coll Johnson, touching this neglect of the Indians, you had great reason to apprehend great mischiefs might ensue, from the indefatigable Intrigues of the French, with many other just Remarks on their Conduct, whereupon his Lordship asked me what could be the reason why the People of the Province would not regard their own Safety upon such Occasions to which I told him, that I imputed all their Obstinacy to the Spirit of the Faction, set on foot by Chief Justice Delancey, and while he had any expectations of the Administration, I could not hope they would behave otherwise and declared to his Lordship, that it was M<sup>r</sup> Sharpes opinion, as well as my own that he could think of no better Expedient to get them to act rightly than by removing M<sup>r</sup> Delancey from his Commission of L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup>: M<sup>r</sup> Colden had withstood all their attacks with great Steadiness & Resolution, and I did not doubt but he would be able to carry his points, with the Assistance of the present Council in your absence, as his Lordship had been pleased to restore a Gentleman to his Seat in Council (meaning M<sup>r</sup> Alexander) who had great abilities & weight in the Country, upon which he observed, that if a man of Quality & Go<sup>v</sup> in Chief could not, with the Assistance of M<sup>r</sup> Colden bring the Assembly to terms, how could M<sup>r</sup> Colden expect to do it in his absence, and inferred that nothing could give so good a turn to the present Animosities as the sending over a Man of Weight from hence to which I replied that if your Excellency's Complaints had been

properly attended to, the face of things might have changed in that province before now upon which he said he was clearly of Opinion Mr Delancey should not be left in the Administration, and that some thing must be done for that purpose; and at parting I told his Lordship, I thought it extreamly hard upon your Excellency, to be obliged to suspend him upon your coming away, when the Ministry had it in their power of doing it here so easily, but believ'd if your Excellency was drove to it, you would certainly exercise the Powers you had, since which I have engaged Mr Sharpe to speak to him, and as he expressed a great Regard for your Excellency on all Occasions, I am in great hopes of getting the Commission revoked, or some instructions sent to your Excellency on that head by the first of the New York Ships.

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*From George Clinton*

NEW YORK 6<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1752

Sir

I had yesterday your favour of 26<sup>th</sup> Decemb. and Mr Alexander sent me yours to him on y<sup>e</sup> affair of King Roberts Son, I must own it Seems Something odd to me, but Mr Allexander has been just with me and seems Satisfyed at its being done, and I have agreed to it during pleasure & hope to get him to sett up as one of y<sup>e</sup> Members tomorrow I intend a meeting of Chambers the Mayor &c &c, to consult about wh he should stand & what time it will be proper to Issue y<sup>e</sup> writts and Mr Allexander is to consult with his friends then agree upon the time you may depend on my getting in Chambers at any rate if possible I had a long visit from the C. Just the day before Yesterday and vastly complisant he was & you will know what Sign that is, I expected it had been about my Turning out his Cousin Beekman, but he did not mention it, but wanted to make some excuse about

Schyler one of the Oswego Commission<sup>rs</sup> but I gave him for answer in general that it was a great abuse & deserved punishment

We have not heard anything of Lord Loudon this great while, and as to L<sup>d</sup> Anson I fancy it is only Sent up by way of amusement I am surprized they did not give out at the Same time he was to be Succeeded by L<sup>d</sup> Sandwich one of their favourits, I have had a letter from Cap<sup>t</sup> Roddam of the Sixth of October who has been very well received and upon his request ordered his Ship from Portsmouth Round to Deptford to be paid off The Admiralty tells me in a very complasent letter there is so few Seamen allowed, that they cannot put Capt. Roddam into Commission to fetch me, but they shall take care that one is ordered, but Roddam is in hopes he shall be able to get out, we expect fresher News next Saturday by a Vessell to Rhod Island which was to sail a fortnight after any of ours, if anything comes you may depend of hearing from me

There is a whole party (?) just Sett off in Slays with Mrs Clinton, Allexanders, Kennedy's, Hollands, Layns & c & c & c as for me I can only look out the window at them, nor stirr'd out of our appartments since you went,

We all joyn in our Complim<sup>ts</sup> to you & Family & wish you a happy New Year I am

Sir

Your very humble Servant and Friend

G CLINTON

Honble Doct. COLDEN.

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK Janry 21<sup>st</sup> 1752

Dear Sir

I had yours of December 26<sup>th</sup>—& forthwith Communicated it to his Excellency who agreed in your Sentiments as I Did—and had Leave to acquaint the person



who had Spoke to me of the approbation on Terms proposed, I according went to the person who was the father of the Gent proposed, and acquainted him, and that as his Nephew was in favor he Should forthwith agree upon his Election or determine to stand without his Consent and Desired his Answer in the afternoon

in the afternoon he came but Said his Nephew had given Such reasons for his own Standing this time that he could not insist upon it, with which I acquainted his Excellency the next day, and with the name of the person who had made the proposal before, which I thought my Self bound to do to those that I had a warrant Sufficient (as one would have thought) for what I had Said to his Excellency & you

I have just now come from dineing w<sup>h</sup> the Governour & Rutherfords brother, who is come from Jamaica; the Gov<sup>r</sup> told me he had now wrote to you & that there's an opportunity immediately, whereon I Left the Company to come & write this

I have rec<sup>d</sup> a Summons for the jersey assembly to meet the 23<sup>d</sup> instant at Amboy where I propose to go next week—I know of no news to acquaint you of but that I heard since noon, that by a vessell from Halifax we hear that he Spoke with a vessel from Amsterdam bound to Rhode Island who upon asking news told him that Prince William was dead, but being uncertain whom he meant he turned back & askt what prince William, he answered the Duke of Cumberland and that he died the 26<sup>th</sup> of October—fearing missing the opportunity—I remain w<sup>t</sup> my Compliments to Mrs Colden D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most humble Obed Serv<sup>t</sup>

JA. ALEXANDER

There is not the Least  
Ground that I have heard of for  
L<sup>d</sup> Loudens being Gov<sup>r</sup>—its a  
meer invention to amuse

[Indorsed]

To The hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldingham

*Cadwallader Colden to George Clinton*

[Copy]

COLDENHAM Feb<sup>ry</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1752S<sup>r</sup>

I have the honour of your Excellency's of the 9<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> of last month In that of the 9<sup>th</sup> your Excell<sup>y</sup> is pleased to ask my advice on M<sup>r</sup> Albertson whom Cap<sup>n</sup> Wentworth has recommended to be Sheriff of this County The present Sheriff your Excell<sup>y</sup> knows declined to continue longer in the office & I am told has not renewed his Commission as usual This is a neglect which I think ought not to be passed over especially if it be true as I am informed on several occasions that he is very negligent in his office There were several persons in Jail for Felony one of them for Murder of an officer in the Execution of his Duty they have all made their escape The Sheriff by what I am told has justly laid himself under Suspicion of Negligence if not of connivance in suffering this Escape The Administration may therefor be blamed if this Sheriff should be suffer'd to continue after a Freeholder in the County applies for the office I am but little acquainted with M<sup>r</sup> Albertson's character more than that he is a Freeholder & of a good estate for this part of the Country I find the Dutch of Esopus are much against his being apointed but this does not weigh with me because they want to have all offices among themselves & have allwise had Sheriffs subservient to their purposes I have enquired into his character & can learn nothing material to his Prejudice but that he was once a Justice of the Peace in Queens County & superseded for some Malversation in his office He tells me that it was don in M<sup>r</sup> Clarks time by the Chief Justices Peek to him in Party affairs at that time That he stood trial for it & was acquitted. That M<sup>r</sup> Smith the attorney gen<sup>l</sup> is well acquainted with this whole affair I must therefor beg of your Excellency to do nothing in this apointment till you have first advised with the Attorney Gen<sup>l</sup> & if he thinks him a proper person I shall be pleased with his

being apointed. I know of no other person in this County that is willing to accept of the office tho' I have spoke to several about it. D<sup>r</sup> Ayscough mentioned his under Sheriff brother to me but his being neither Freeholder nor inhabitant in the County is a material objection M<sup>r</sup> Albertson tells me that he can give sufficient Security of which no doubt your Excell<sup>y</sup> will give order that care be taken. I have delayed M<sup>r</sup> Albertson's returning to New York that no new Commiss<sup>n</sup> should issue till the Election for this County is over It is supposed we shall have one new member for this County but our Election cannot be of any consequence

I hope M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton will be able to make her self easy in the Fort notwithstanding that the small pox is in town My Duty to her I am

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*From James Alexander*

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

NEW YORK feb 15<sup>th</sup> 1752

I returned last night from Jersey when I received yours of the 6<sup>th</sup>

I understand as you do that Surveyors are only Evidences of facts, and by their oaths cannot be more for one Side than another in a Cause, & think the Expressions you mention, to be the occasion of yours, very groundless in themselves

This Last Session of Assembly at Amboy the bill for Support of Government & Laying a tax of £8000 ..... in 15 months for payment of Salarie & Debts, is just free from the grand objections which the Council for nine preceeding Sessions made to it The Sessions also past without the least Contention between the Council & assembly a thing very new for that province, tho' warm Strugles were in the assembly to get the bill in that manner; on one grand point the voices were ten and ten & only carried by the Speakers vote, all other points went Easier



We hear that on a Scrutiny the two members in Coll Johnstons interest at Albany carried it, there being 40 had votes on either Side, that the Election began yesterday in Queens County where a great Struggle is like to be, I think of nothing further to add—but my Complements to M<sup>rs</sup> Colden & all your family—I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most humble  
Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK feb 18<sup>th</sup> 1752

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Doctor Ayscough a few minutes agoe brought me the enclosed Letter from his Excellency and I thought best to Send you the Original I hope you'll not fail of leaving here at the time therin appointed, or rather a litle before Least Cap<sup>t</sup> Cosby Should get ready Sooner

The Doctor tells me the orders are that Cap<sup>t</sup> Cosby shall receive & obey his Ex<sup>ys</sup> orders as to time of Sailing from hence and receive his whole family to come to any part of England his Ex<sup>y</sup> shall Desire

L<sup>d</sup> Holderness by Letter of Novr 20<sup>th</sup> to his Ex<sup>y</sup> owns rec<sup>t</sup> of his Exys Letter of Augt 31<sup>st</sup> recommending M<sup>r</sup> Smith for att<sup>y</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup> but Says one Kemp is nominated & will Speedyly be here—But the Doctor tells me his Ex<sup>y</sup> has a Letter from Capt Clinton of Decr 17<sup>th</sup> that Says M<sup>r</sup> Kemp inclines not to accept the office, and that his Ex<sup>ys</sup> friends are Endeavouring to get Some other provision for M<sup>r</sup> Kemp that M<sup>r</sup> Smith may be Confirmed

Lord Holderness Says that his Majesty approves of the appointment of M<sup>r</sup> Chambers dureing good behaviour in place of Judge Phillips

M<sup>r</sup> Smith has a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Paris of Nov<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Signifying the Endeavours used by C J Morris & him &

his Ex<sup>ys</sup> friends in behalf of M<sup>r</sup> Smith upon a report of M<sup>r</sup> Bradleys death that had come Six weeks before, but this one Kemp was named, & inclined not to accept, and the matter waited for new recommendations, which had arrived 12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> As these recommendations went by the Charming Rachell & Dover the very week after M<sup>r</sup> Bradleys death—and the first ships that went from New York after its very odd that news of Bradleys death should have been there 6 weeks before their arriveal—Mr Paris adds that he had Sent that day to Consult w<sup>th</sup> C J Morris on this affair but had answer that he was Sick in bed, & refers him to what C J Morris should write—Catherwood refers his Ex<sup>y</sup> also to C J Morris's Letters for some things, but no Letter has come from C J Morris to any of his friends that I hear of

These Letters are come by the post last Saturday from Boston—Also the enclosed to you from P Collison. I Suppose he did not dream the postage would be so much as you See indors'd on it

Doctor Ayscough told me he was just come from the fields, publishing the writs of Election, where the Old members were Declared Elected without any opposition or poll Demanded—I am

D<sup>r</sup>Sir

Your most obedient & most humble  
Servant

[Indorsed]

JA. ALEXANDER

To The honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldenham

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*From Peter Collinson*

My Dear Friend

LOND. March 4: 1752

I am So remote & my affairs for 3 or 4 months past have been so pressing that I have no Leisure to attend your affairs—I must Submitt the whole to Good providence but that you may See I am not unmindfull of

them I thought it convenient & for your Interest as Lord Holderness was new in his office & <sup>Th</sup>haps in American History—to present Him your Book with the Letter on the other Side which I Sent carefully by a trusty Hand—I haven't been able to See Lord Lincoln—but I remind Him on writeing to him on y<sup>r</sup> Business I have as yett no answer—about your bill You will have more <sup>th</sup> Corne or Dean I am much

Y<sup>rs</sup>

P COLLINSON

I have sent to Dodsley & y<sup>r</sup> book is not yett printed

[Indorsed]

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
New York

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*From P. Collinson to the Earl of Holderness*

COPIA—Feb<sup>y</sup> 10: 1752

To the Right Hon<sup>bl</sup> The Earl of Holderness

Last Saturday when I had the Honour to Wait on your Lordship with Gover<sup>nr</sup> Clintons Letter in behalf of M<sup>r</sup> Colden You was pleased to depute a very obligeing Gentleman to give me your Sentiments On It——He was pleased to tell Mee that Y<sup>r</sup> Lordsp. had entertain'd a favourable opinion of M<sup>r</sup> Colden

But that you may know more of his abilities both as a Philosopher & a statesman with respect to the government of New York & his perfect knowledge in Indian affairs—an attainment so absolutely Necessary for an officer in a principal post of Governm<sup>t</sup> in that province

I beg your Lordships acceptance of the Inclosed Book writt by M<sup>r</sup> Colden some years ago—with a proof sheet of a preface to a Work now in the press

If It is possible for a Secretary of State to find leisure to dip into these Tracts, I doubt not but your Lordship will find reason to be confirmed in your opinion of M<sup>r</sup> Coldens abilities—and Wee have further Hopes from y<sup>r</sup> Lordships Great Equity & Candor that you will not Suf-



fer his Just Right to be Invaded. But as on old and Faithfull Servant to the King for more then 20 years & as oldest of the Council He may Succeed (if Gover<sup>r</sup> Clinton returns) as Deputy or Lieutenant Goven<sup>r</sup> until another is appointed.

I am & c

P COLLINSON

*From James Alexander*

Dear Sir

NEW YORK March 13<sup>th</sup> 1752

I knew nothing till this morning but that his Excellency intended to meet the assembly the End of this month—But this morning M<sup>r</sup> Kennedy came & told me that his Excellency had Sent for him & Desired him to request me to draw the form of a proclamation for further prorogueing the Assembly & to assign for the cause therof, the Spreading of the Small pox in this City, accordingly drew the form of Such a one, and Doctor Ayscough called for it. M<sup>r</sup> Kennedy told me also that his Excellency does not incline to meet them at all and that he thinks of Sailing some time in June—I hope his Excellency has informed you of these his resolutions, and whether and when you Should come down here—I am

Dear Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To The honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att Coldingham

*From Cadwallader Colden to Benjamin Franklin*

COLDENHAM March 16<sup>th</sup> 1752

To M<sup>r</sup> FRANKLIN

Dear S<sup>r</sup>

Last fall I acknowleged from New York the favour you did me in sending me a copy of your Electrical experiments The oftener I read them over the more I

am pleased with them & every time discover some thing new which I had not taken notice of at the first reading. In my opinion no set of experiments which I have rec'd lead so directly towards discovering the cause of Electricity as yours do. However I find it difficult to form any conception of this cause which in any degree satisfies my mind. I conceive it to be a most subtle elastic fluid like our air but incomparably more subtle & more elastic. Vinegar & Vinous spirits are both parts or productions of Fermented liquors. High rectified Spirit is an electric  $\text{per se}$ . Vinegar is a non Electric or a Conductor. Now I can easily Imagine that Wine or fermented Liquor contains a considerable quantity of this Electrical fluid that Vinegar has lost it all or a great part of it but that the whole or greatest part is separated with the high spirit & remains with it. But I cannot conceive how or from what cause it proceeds that is proper here as one side of the glass is filled with this elastic fluid the other side is emptied of it & without understanding this no satisfactory account can be given of the Phenomena of Electricity.

You say that Salt is an electric  $\text{per se}$ . Several pieces of West India Salt will draw the electrical fluid from the electrified vial & some others will not do it. Some will draw off the Electricity from the vial even when they are fixed in sealing wax. Salt never communicates the Shock & become saturated with it but seem to retain the Electrical fluid in themselves. For by some experiment made in my house a piece of Salt that at first drew off the Electricity would by repeated applications to the Electrical vial become an electric  $\text{per se}$ . But all Electrical experiments depend so much on particular circumstances that any not so much conversant in them as you are may be easily deceived. We have observed that Womens flannel under petticoats are sometimes deeply charged with the Electrical fluid so as in the Winter time after they are thrown off & a nonelectric drawn slowly over them make a snapping noise as the excited tube does on the approach of a non electric.

I inclined to have made experiments by filling the viol at several times with the strong acid spirits such as strong spirit or oyl of Vitriol Sp. of Niter Aqua fortis & Aq Regia and at other times with the alkaline sp. as sp. of Sal Ammon Hartshorn &c but I have not sufficient quantities for such purposes

I would incline likewise to make experiments on several kinds of salts as common salt Niter, (Borax & Ammoniac of Earths as Bole Chalk clay sand Lime &c I am strongly inclined to think that from such like experiments we may learn many usefull things in Medecine & Agriculture For I suspect that all Fermentations Vegetation & Animal Motion is principally produced by this subtile elastic fluid which I imagine to be the cause of Electricity & is more or less to be found in all bodies strongly, retained by some & seperating easily from others When the Viol has been repeatedly charged we find water raised along the Wine to the outside of the Cork & may not the similar nourishment in plants be raised in such like manner

I am so strongly possessed with the Principles of Action in Matter which you have seen that I amuse my self at leisure hours in applying them to the explication of the most general phenomena of nature & can not easily direct my thoughts to other speculations These favourite prepossessions probably may be of advantage to our gaining of knowledge more perhaps than if you & I were both solely attached to one kind of pursuit because one may receive hints from the other which do not naturally arise in the pursuit which only one singly follows. Some gentlemen distinguished by their knowledge in Physical matters in London Oxford Leipsic & Paris have given so favourable an opinion of the little treatise you have seen that I have been induced to revise what was before wrote & to make considerable additions which I expect Mr Doddsley has by this time printed a Specimen of the sheet I have received this spring The printer has done his part to recommend by a good letter & paper I have endeavour to explain my thoughts more clearly & fully than I did



at first A few copies of it will be printed as it is not adopted to amuse common readers. I cannot expect that my sentiments so contrary to the commonly received notions should suddenly prevail a French Gent writes *il a bien donné la torture a nos Metaphysiciens* but I am confident they will at last.

I have mentioned this book on account of a proposition advanced in it which perhaps may be of use in or serve as a hint for explaining the electrical fire

I propose to add to this a copy of an illustration of that proposition because the illustration will not be found in the printed book

No doubt you have seen the Cure of Cancers by the Poke weed published in the Gent<sup>ms</sup> Magazine I have lately had a confirmation of this by a Cancer last year cured in a Womans breast I make no doubt it will generally make a perfect cure of a genuine Cancer from many Accounts. I have heard though not obtained in such an authentic manner as fit to be published & as no cure before this was known but by the cruel method of extirpation & that not allwise a certain cure publication in a Magazine may be of use to many miserable persons. Though this juice gives much pain in the application it is not a caustic but rather such kind of pain as Arum gives without destroying the substance of the flesh I never heard of any ill consequence from the external use of it where the sick had patience to endure the pain tho it has been frequently used in external applications

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*Copy of His Majesty's additional Instruction to His  
Governors in America in 1752*

Whereas the Governors of such of Our Colonies and Plantations in America as are more immediately under Our Government are, in particular Cases as well as in general directed and required by Our Instructions to transmit unto Us by one of Our Principal Secretaries of

State, and to Our Commissioners for Trade and Plantations Accounts, from time to time, of all their Proceedings, and of the Condition of Affairs within their respective Governments. And Whereas it doth appear to Us that it will tend to the benefit of Our said Colonies and Plantations, the ease and convenience of Our Subjects, and the greater regularity and dispatch of Business, if the Correspondence be confined to, and pass through but one Channel It is therefore Our Express Will and Pleasure that in all Cases, wherein by Our Instructions you are directed to transmit any particular or general Accounts of your Proceedings, or of Matters relative to the Affairs of Our Province under your Government, you do, for the future, transmit the same to Our Commissioners for Trade & Plantations only, in order that they may be laid before Us.

Provided nevertheless, and It is Our Express Will and Pleasure that whenever any Occurrences shall happen within Our said Province under your Government, of such a nature and importance as may require Our more immediate direction, by one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, and also upon all Occasions, and in all Affairs wheron you may receive Our Orders by one of Our Principal Secretary's of State, you shall, in all such Cases, transmit to Our said Secretary of state only, an Account of all such Occurrences and of your Proceedings relative to such Orders.

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*Survey of John Sackets Patent by George Sole in the Presence of Mathias Mash & Ja Brown & Sam<sup>l</sup> Brown in April 1752*

Begining at a white Oak Tree which John & Richard Sacket shewed to me to be their South west bounds Thence runs Northeasterly Six miles by the ridge of mountains which fell short of the brook called Weseach about a quarter of a Mile I then proceeded the same

course over the said brook and made diligent sarch for the White Oak Tree said to be marked by the Indians—but cou'd find none then I measured from the said Brook East twenty degrees North to the top of a Mountain 24 Chains which ended at a Rock with stones laid on it & thence South East to the top of a Mountain called Westpenting or Peiked Mountain which is said to be the Northeast bounds of the Grant made to Sacket &c Then I ran South 8 degrees west which brought me to the pine Tree shewn me by the Sackets to be the South East corner of their Grant which line so run left the farm of Land where John Sacket now lives about a Mile Easterly thereof and I likewise measured from the Top of the last mention'd Mountain to the Mountain which Sacket called the Peiked Mountain which is near the East side of the oblong & in distance on a Line runing 18 degrees North of the East two Miles

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*From Benjamin Franklin*

PHILAD<sup>A</sup> April 23 1752

Sir

In considering your Fav<sup>r</sup> of the 16<sup>th</sup> past, I recollected my having wrote you Answers to some Queries concernings the Difference between Electrics <sup>⊗</sup> se. and Non Electrics, and the Effects of Air in Electrical Experiments, which I apprehend you may not have received. The Date I have forgot

We have been us'd to call these Bodies Electrics <sup>⊗</sup> se which would not conduct the Electric Fluid: We once imagin'd that only such Bodies contain'd that Fluid; afterwards, that they contain'd none of it: But farther Experiments shew'd our Mistakes. It is to be found in all Matter we know of: And the Distinction of Electrics <sup>⊗</sup> se and Non Electrics, should now be dropt as improper; and that of Conductors and Non conductors assum'd in its Place, as I mention'd in those Answers.



I do not remember any Experiments by which it appear'd that high rectified Spirit will not conduct; perhaps you have made such. This I know, that Wax, Rosin, Brimstone, and even Glass, commonly reputed Electrics <sup>tho</sup> se will, when in a Fluid State, conduct pretty well: Glass will do it when only red hot. So that my former Position, that only Metals and Water were Conductors and other Bodies more or less such as they partook of Metall or Moisture, was too general.

Your Conception of the Electric Fluid that it is incomparably more subtil than Air, is undoubtedly just. It pervades dense Matter with the greatest Ease: But it does not seem to mix or incorporate willingly with mere Air, as it does with other Matter. It will not quit common Matter to join with Air. Air obstructs in some degree its Motion. An Electric Atmosphere cannot be communicated at so great a Distance thro' intervening Air, by far, as thro' a Vacuum. Who knows then, but there may be, as the Ancients thought a Region of this Fire, above our Atmosphere, prevented by our Air and its own too great Distance for Attraction, from joining our Earth? Perhaps where the Atmosphere is rarest, this Fluid may be densest; and nearer the Earth, where the Atmosphere grows denser, this Fluid may be rarer, yet some of it below enough to attach itself to our highest Clouds, and thence they becoming electrified may be attracted by and descend towards the Earth, and discharge their Watry Contents together with that Etherial Fire. Perhaps the Auroræ Boreales are Currents of this Fluid in its own Region above our Atmosphere, becoming from their Motion visible. There is no End to Conjectures. As yet we are but Novices in this Branch of Natural Knowledge.

You mention several Differences of Salts in y<sup>r</sup> Electrical Experiments. Were they all equally dry? Salt is apt to acquire Moisture from a moist Air, and some Sorts more than others. When perfectly dry'd, by lying before a Fire; or on a Stove, none that I have try'd will conduct, any better than so much Glass

New Flannel, if dry and warm, will draw the Electric Fluid from Non Electrics as well as that which has been worn.

I wish you had the Convenience of trying the Experiments you seem to have such Expectations from, upon various kinds of Spirits, Salts, Earths, &c. Frequently, in a Variety of Experiments, tho' we miss what we expected to find, yet something valuable turns out, something surprising, and instructing tho' unthought of.

I am glad your Piece on the Principles of Action in Matter, with the Explanations, is likely soon to appear. I hope it may be printed correctly. Tracts on uncommon Subjects, when the Author is at a Distance, frequently suffer much in the Press, thro' the Ignorance of the Workmen. I think my Letters were almost as fairly wrote as Print itself, yet they were publish'd with several Errata that render particular Parts quite unintelligible.

I thank you for communicating the Illustration of the Theorem concerning Light. It is very curious. But I must own that I am much in the *Dark* about *Light*. I am not satisfy'd with the Doctrine that supposes Particles of Matter call'd Light continually driven off from the Sun's Surface, with a Swiftmess so prodigious! Must not the smallest Particle conceivable, have, with such a Motion, a Force exceeding that of a 24 pounder discharg'd from a Cannon? Must not the Sun diminish exceedingly by such a Waste of Matter, and the Planets instead of drawing nearer to him, as some have feared, recede to greater Distances thro' the lessened Attraction? Yet these Particles with this amazing Motion, will not drive before them or remove the least and lightest Dust they meet with. And the Sun, for aught we know, continues of his ancient Dimensions, and his Attendants move in their ancient Orbits.

May not all the Phenomena of Light be more conveniently solved, by supposing Universal Space filled with a subtle elastic Fluid, which when at rest is not visible, but whose Vibrations affect that fine Sense the

Eye, as those of Air do the grosser Organs of the Ear? We do not, in the Case of Sound, imagine that any sonorous Particles are thrown off from a Bell, for Instance, and fly in strait Lines to the Ear; why must we believe that luminous Particles leave the Sun and proceed to the Eye? Some Diamonds, if rubbed, shine in the dark without losing any Part of their Matter. I can make an electrical Spark as big as the flame of a Candle, much brighter and therefore visible farther; yet this is Light without Fuel, and I am persuaded no Part of the Electric Fluid flies off in such Case to distant Places, but all goes directly and is to be found in the Place to which I destine it. May not different Degrees of Vibration of the above suppos'd Universal Medium, occasion the Appearance of different Colours? I think the Electric Fluid is always the same, yet I find that weaker and stronger Sparks differ in Apparent Colour, some white, blue, purple, red; the strongest white, weak ones red. Thus different Degrees of Vibration given to the Air, produce the 7 different Sounds in Music, analagous to the 7 Colours, yet the Medium, Air, is the same.

If the Sun is not wasted by Expence of Light, I can easily conceive that he shall otherwise always retain the same Quantity of Matter, tho we should suppose him made of Sulphur constantly flaming. The Action of Fire only *separates* the Particles of Matter, it does not *annihilate* them. Water by Heat rais'd in Vapour, returns to the Earth in Rain. And if we could collect all the Particles of burning Matter that go off in Smoke, perhaps they might, with the Ashes, weigh as much as the Body before it was fired; and if we could put them into the same Position with regard to each other, the Mass would be the same as before; and might be burnt over again. The Chymists have analys'd Sulphur, and find it compos'd in certain Proportions, of Oil, Salt, and Earth: And having by the Analysis discover'd those Proportions, they can of those Ingredients make Sulphur. So we have only to suppose, that the Parts of the Sun's Sulphur, separated by Fire, rise into his Atmosphere, there, being freed from



the immediate Action of the Fire, they collect into cloudy Masses, and growing by Degrees too heavy to be longer supported, they descend to the Sun, and are burnt over again. Hence the Spots appearing on his Face, which are observ'd to diminish daily in Size, their consuming Edges being of particular Brightness

'Tis well we are not, as poor Galileo was, subject to the Inquisition for Philosophical Heresy. My Whispers against the orthodox Doctrine in private Letters, would be dangerous; your Writing & Printing would be highly criminal. As it is, you must expect some Censure, but one Heretic will surely excuse another.

I am heartily glad to hear more Instances of the Success of the Poke Weed, in the Cure of that horrible Evil to the human Body, a Cancer. You will deserve highly of Mankind for the Communication. But I find, in Boston they are at a Loss to know the right Plant, some asserting it is what they call *Mechoacan*, others other Things. In one of their late Papers, it is publicly requested that a perfect Description may be given of the Plant, its Places of Growth &c. I have mislaid the Paper, or would send it to you. I tho't you had describ'd it pretty fully.

With great Respect and Esteem, I am, D<sup>r</sup> Sir,

Your obliged hum<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

*From George Clinton*

S<sup>r</sup>

FORT GEORGE 5 May 1752

Last night arrived the Dover from London by which I have received Letters, the Contents I can not communicate at a distance, therefore desire you will, on the receipt of this, make what haste you can to come down, that we may settle matters, not that I shall depart sooner than June, as I proposed; The Ship heaved down one side but yesterday so that probably I shall be detained for her only.

Wraxall came Passenger in the Dover, I suppose he has gained his point, for he immediately went to Murray's, and has not been with me yet, I am sorry for the Mayor, but one Parliament Man's Vote weighs more than all the American Governour's Interest together I am  
S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

G CLINTON

L<sup>d</sup> Hallifax with y<sup>e</sup> Board is appointed to take care of American affairs but how far their power, is not known as yet Chambers Mandamus is come over C Johnson is down but talks of leaving the place soon fancy he would be glad to see you first & I hope you will make haist down I shall be glad to receive you at Pavonia  
D<sup>r</sup> Colden

[Indorsed]

To The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWA COLDEN Esq

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*From Benjamin Franklin*

PHILAD<sup>a</sup> May 14 1752

Sir,

I find Parker has been indiscreet enough, to print a Piece in his Paper, which has brought him into a great deal of Trouble. I cannot conceive how he was prevail'd on to do it, as I know him to be a thorough Believer himself, and averse to every thing that is commonly called Freethinking. He is now much in his Penitentials, and requests me to intercede with you, to procure from the Governor a Nol. Pros. in his Favour, promising to be very circumspect and careful for the future, not to give Offence either in Religion or Politicks, to you or any of your Friends, in which I believe he is very sincere. I have let him know, that I pretend to no Interest with you, and I fear he has behav'd to the Governor and to

you in such a Manner as not to deserve your Favour. Therefore I only beg Leave to recommend the poor Man's Case to your Consideration; and if you could without Inconvenience to your own Character, interest yourself a little in his Behalf, I shall, as I am much concern'd for him, esteem it a very great Obligation. As to the Cause of Religion, I really think it will be best serv'd by stopping the Prosecution: For if there be any evil Tendency apprehended from the Publication of that Piece, the Trial and Punishment of the Printer will certainly make it 1000 times more publick, such is the Curiosity of Mankind in these Cases. It is besides, an old Thing, has been printed before both in England, and by Andrew Bradford here; but no publick Notice being taken of it, it dy'd and was forgotten, as I believe it would now be, if treated with the same Indifference. I am, with great Respect,

Sir,

Your most hum<sup>b</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To The hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldenham

Free

B FRANKLIN

*From Cadwallader Colden to Benjamin Franklin*  
[Copy.]

COLDENHAM May 20<sup>th</sup> 1752

D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

I received yours of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April as I was going on board the Sloop in my return home from New York & could not take the pleasure of reading it before I left that place

One so much conversant in examining any particular Phenomenon or of various Phenomena arising from the same cause must on every occasion give the pleasure of learning something new to those less conversant in them



as often as the first is pleased to answer any questions of the latter or explain the diversities or variations which attend the same phenomenon in different cases or appearances

Your conjecture of the Electric fluid's taking place in the superior regions of our atmosphere pleases my fancy as it in some measure confirms what I have advanced in the Treatise now in the press viz That all the Planets in a greater or less degree emit Light & indeed I think that all bodies do It does not follow that because we do not see the light that none is emitted Some men can see where others are entirely in the Dark & some animals as owls Batts &c see in the Dark & cannot bear so great a degree of Light as is necessary for our Perceptions

When you shall see that Tract you will have opportunity of Judgeing of the Validity of the reasons I advance for an opinion that Light is a substance as Being essentially distinct from what we commonly call Matter or Body that they have nothing in common between them except that we consider or conceive both as consisting of Quantity that is that in the same space there may be a greater or less quantity of either & that a certain quantity of either may be confined within certain bounds & consequently have some shape or form. Light has no power of attraction though it be attracted by resisting matter

The Vibrations of a Fluid will in no manner explain the Phenomena of Light as is very expressly pointed out in S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton's optics for example Light proceeds allwise in streight lines unless diverted by some other thing for this reason any opac body placed between the eye & a luminous body intercepts all the light but it does not intercept the sound coming from a sonorous body because Sound is conveyed by the Vibrations of a fluid medium not by any emission of particles from the sounding body Again the seperation of the distinct parts of Light which excite in us the different & distinct sensations of colours & which once seperated allwise remain the same prove that these Sensations can not be pro-

duced by the Vibrations of any Medium supposed to convey the action of Light from the Luminous body. I am persuaded that a carefull attention to the Phenomena in S<sup>r</sup> Isaacs optics & to his reflections on them will remove all doubt on this head

On this occasion I think it proper to observe to you that in the Treatise before mentioned what S<sup>r</sup> Isaac has proved is generally taken for granted & supposed to be known

It may be proper likewise to observe to you that pure Light without any other mixture makes no impression on any other sense except the sight. That the sense of heat arises from the action of Light united with the action of some resisting matter So likewise we have no Idea of fire without the union of resisting matter with Light.

In considering all Quantities or Degrees of Action or Force whether in ascending or descending whether in considering them as continually increasing or continually decreasing the ratio of comparison must at last come to that of infinity. We have no Idea of the absolute Force of any thing only of its comparative force or ratio of its force to that of some other thing. The force of Different quantities of Light does not arise from the different Velocities (for I suppose all light allwise moves in the same ratio of Velocity compared with any velocity that can be distinguished by our sense) but from the greater quantity or density of Light in the same space

If the emission of Light be not continued but by distinct vibrations or pulses & an infinitely thin surface of Light be thrown off in any finite part of time suppose in a fifth then there cannot be any finite or determinable diminution of the Light of the Sun or of the Diameter of Light in the sun in any finite time If the intervals of the vibrations or emissions of infinitely thin surfaces of Light be in an infinitely small part of time It may take a hundred or a thousand years to diminish the suns diameter one Inch You will find something of these abstracted speculation in the Treatise I mention

I have much reason to apprehend the errors of the press when I reflect on the manner the Indian History has been printed Such gross errors in things obvious to the meanest understanding Mr Dodsley promised to get some person of Learning to correct the Press perhaps the Difficulties he meets with in this is the reason that the impression was not compleated in the beginning of March though begun in December

I shall be exceedingly disapointed if it do not meet with censure. I have laid my account with it Not only with unjust & injurious censure but that many errors may truly be discovered & that it will require much correction It is impossible to avoid errors in things of this nature more especially in a path not trod in before & where I had no body to assist me to review & examine the work. A Difficulty an author cannot labour under in England

I have received a Copy of the Translation of my first piece into High Dutch with Animadversions on it at the end of it printed at Hamburg & Leipsic 1748 but I do not understand one word of them I find my name often in company with those of very Great ones Newtone Leibnitz & Wolfius & Leibnitz's Monades often mentioned a New Doctrine which perhaps you have seen and is of Great repute in Germany The animadversions end—*Magnis tamen excidit ausis* which being in Latin I understand

The person in the Boston paper who wants a fuller description of the Poke weed or Phylolacca than that given in the Magazine must have but litle skill in Botany for I am confident the Description is sufficient for a Botanist to distinguish it from any other Plant what soever I know that some people have thought that the Poke weed is Mechoacan but they who think so know litle of Plants

To Mr FRANKLEN.



*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE 21<sup>st</sup> May 1752

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency being very busy in Answering Letters recd by Dean who arrived Wednesday has ordered me to acquaint you that as he shall always have a great Value for those Gentlemen that stood firmly to him, in opposition against the vile Faction and will continue so to do them Services as long as it is in his power. And as M<sup>r</sup> Holland has been remarkable that way, and has lately lost a Post, that he gave him, which loss his Ex<sup>ely</sup> would if possible make up to him if he could S<sup>r</sup> you will observe inclosed is an offer to him, which may turn out to his advantage, for which reason his Excellency desires you would immediately answer that part of it which is referred in it to you, the doing which I assure you S<sup>r</sup> will be very well accepted by his Excellency, who has given me the above heads to write to you, I am S<sup>r</sup> with great Respect

Your most obedient & most Humble Servant  
JN<sup>o</sup>. AYSCOUGH

P. S.

please to excuse Blotts  
& Erasing for I have not time  
to write it over again Inclosed is a Draught of  
the vacant Land at Schoharie which please to examine  
with other drafts of patented Land and return it  
again to his Excellency

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
[Indorsed]

To The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at Coldingham  
to be left at CAPT COLDEN'S  
at Newberg

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*Ayscough's List of Colden's Alleged Delays*

About Coll Johnsons great Grant being delayed for want  
of a Quadrant which he has sent for a Quadrant 12 June

1751 the Mayor's patent delayed for what D<sup>r</sup> Colden said was wanting & is sent up to Albany to have some alteration, this done according to y<sup>e</sup> order several other patents want return of Survey Livingston's petition to make some Report on it that Excell<sup>y</sup> may be able to give the Ministry an answer if asked about it. Livingston & Beekman up with you. Firewood and candle £400 to leave agreement entirely with Mr. Alexander between Gov<sup>r</sup> &c D<sup>r</sup> Colden as to perquisites. Emoluments & Patent fees allowed to be out in Gov<sup>rs</sup> time.

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK May 22<sup>d</sup> 1752

Dear Sir

Doctor Ayscough acquainted me this morning that his Ex<sup>y</sup> Supped abroad last night with Some Gen<sup>l</sup>. that he was apprehensive had used insinuations with his Excellency to your prejudice; That his Ex<sup>y</sup> rested all last night and this morning Expressed to him Some of what (he believed) were those insinuations

After the Doctor's acquainting me in General that you delayed the patents that you might have the fees of them &c I told him there was no giving answers to Generals and begged he would Set down the particulars and I would Communicate them to you not doubting you would give a Satisfactory answer to Each particular

Theron the Doctor wrote the above and promised to bring me a list of the patents Ordered, therein pointing out which of them lay at your door to Expedite which I shall inclose herein

As to Livingston's being with you I told the Doctor that it was on my recommendation, that he went in order to advise with you, and have your assistance, as you were best acquainted with that affair of New England—That Beekman had Employed your Son Cadwallader to make Some Surveys for him concerning causes that he has

depending at Law And I Supposed that was what brought him to your house, That I was concerned in those causes against Beekman, but was not in the Least jealous for that reason

As to the firewood & Candle, that's no part of the insinuations, but in favour to you that you may not lose the time of Laying up the wood when cheap, he told me that they used to Cost the Governour about £170 pr annum by which there's a Saveing of about £230, and that his Excellency is to Supply none beyond Some Certain day in june which the Doctor told me, when this current year for that purpose Expires

As to the last article I hope you & the Gov<sup>r</sup> may agree that without any interposition of mine nor Could I interpose till I knew the Demands of one Side, & reasons against them from the other

Doctor Ayscough has read so far & approves it, & gives his hearby Complements to you I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most humble  
Servant

inclosed is the List

JA: ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To The honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att Coldenham

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*Cadwallader Colden to John Ayscough*

[Copy]

COLDENHAM May 29<sup>th</sup> 1752

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency may depend on my doing every thing in my power to serve his friends & I shall like wise have a particular pleasure in obliging M<sup>r</sup> Holland It is impossible for me to know whether the map of the Survey inclosed in yours to me be true or not because it appears from the face of it that there must be an error either in



it or on the Surveys of the patented lands By the Map which you send me the Vacancy amounts to 887 & 270 acres in the whole to 1157 Acres But if the Surveys of the patented land be right the Vacancy amounts to above 1500 Acres tho in your letter you mention only the first Quantity Therefore I think it most prudent to Petition for the Vacant Lands in that place without mentioning the Quantity but any Quantity which shall be found vacant not exceeding two thousand Acres. The great Patent at Scohary to Myndert Schuyler was granted before I was in the office & I have no register of that Survey & consequently cannot examine this Map with it When the Petition shall be made & granted I cannot return the Survey to the office till a Survey be made of the Patented lands in order to discover what Vacancy remains for I cannot be warranted by trusting to a private Survey don I know not how or by whome I inclose the Map you sent me as you desire it to be returned & am S<sup>r</sup>

Y

To Dr AYS COUGH

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*Cadwallader Colden to George Clinton*  
[Copy]

May it please your Excell<sup>y</sup>

In obedience to your Excellency's order in Council referring to me & the attorney Gen<sup>l</sup> the Petition of Robert Livingston Jun<sup>r</sup> that we seperately report thereon what we shall think Proper to be don I humbly conceive that the reference to me as Surveyor Gen<sup>l</sup> must only be on one single point viz whether the Manner of Livingston be within the Boundary of the Province of New York. I can add nothing to what has been reported to your Excellency with respect to the Eastern Boundary of this Province by a Committee of the Council to whom a Claim made by the Gov<sup>t</sup> of New Hampshire was referred for

the reasons given in the report of that Committee I am of opinion that the lands Claimed by the Gov<sup>t</sup> of the Massachusetts Bay within the Manner of Livingston are evidently within the Boundaries of the Province of New York which is humbly submitted by  
To his Excellency the Honourable

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*From John Rutherford*

EDZERSTOUN 8<sup>th</sup> June 1752

Dear Sir

I was a long time very uneasy at getting no letters from you & the rest of my friends at New York, but was glad to find at last that 'twas Mr Mico's fault not theirs, he haveing most unaccountably allowed my letters to lye all winter in his Counting house so I had 'em alltogether A Month or 6 weeks ago & among 'em the pleasure of two from you of the 20<sup>th</sup> July & the 11<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. I send this to Mr Catherwood to forward by first Vessel as I have taken my affairs intirely out of Mr Mico's hands, please direct for me at Edzerstoun near Iedburgh by Berwick upon Tweed by which means they stop no where. I shall Direct this & any others to Mr Nichols Post Master as usuall untill you advise me to change. I resolve, if I can get Leave which is doubtfull, to delay my Voyage to New York untill next Spring when I can bring my Family along with me. My Wife by a good Voyage home being now quite reconciled to sailing but being to lye in August can't well go sooner & mean while my two Eldest Girls gets some Education in Edin<sup>r</sup> & the other three won't require much for the 2 or 3 years we propose to stay in New York.

As I have been close in the Country thinking of nothing but my own private affairs, Visiteing sometimes & entertaining my friends & Neibours & trying all sorts of Country improvements I know nothing earthly of what's passing either in the Political or Literary world I've bought indeed some books but reserve the reading of

'em for New York resolveing then to fall into a more regular course of study than I've done hitherto & till then shall Say nothing to you of your book or of any Subject where learning & knowledge is concerned, but befor I set out shall take care to be able at meeting to give you some Acc<sup>t</sup> of the present Authors & their works. I fancy there's no Certainty of Gov<sup>r</sup> Clintoun's leaveing New York tho I hear he has it again in his power by haveing orders for the Station Ship to Carry him, but if any change is made as was expected in the Choice of Assembly Men so that affairs is likely to be settled to his mind I hope he will stay untill every thing is determined both there & at home so as to leave you no difficultys to strugle with which I have no doubt would be the case at last had he patience to wait the event, I have been much obliged to him for many civilitys which I shall never forget & tho I am fully persuaded his staying longer would be of much Service to you & I both, yet I heartily wish he may rather come home than stay & be tiezed as formerly. I've never heard one word about appointing Chief Justice Morris L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> since what I wrote you I had from him at London, so I dare say they have never designed it or if they have it must be now over since I hear he is to leave London & has no further thoughts of it, so if the Gov<sup>r</sup> is gone I think I may with certainty most heartily wish you joy of the Government & hope to find you in quiet possession; what I mean by quiet possession is that you have put affairs on so regular a footing as to be able to dispatch publick business in one day of the week & have the rest for study, Conversation & proper Exercise. My Wife begs to join me in our sincerest regard & respects for Yourself Your Lady & all you good Family being Dear Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JOHN RUTHERFURD

P. S. Should the Governour arrive before I get over you may depend upon it I shall take care to know who is appointed for it if he gives it up & you shall hear from me all that I can learn of that affair & any thing else you please to recommend to me Adieu.



*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK june 13<sup>th</sup> 1752

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

on Thursday was Seven night, I received your Letter but till yesterday I was at a Loss how to write to you upon it

When I received it, the widow of James Logan had a litle before come here on a Visit, Soon after Doctor Ayscough brought me open your Letter to his Excellency & askt if I had one from you, I told him I had, but had not opened it; But if he would call in half an hour, I would Step aside in the mean time from the Company and read both, which accordingly I Did, and was Extremely well pleased with both as they fully to my Satisfaction showed you were clearly innocent in the points insinuated against you

The Gov<sup>r</sup> was then removed to Admiral Warren's house near Greenwich, and M<sup>rs</sup> Logan was still here when the Doctor returned, When I told him you had by these Letters made good what before I had assured him, I was Confident you could do, For they fully showed your innocence in Every article; wheron I gave him both Letters

About two days after, the Doctor came & told me that the Gov<sup>r</sup> had taken offense at your Letter to me, I told the D<sup>r</sup> I was morally assured the Gov<sup>r</sup> had misapprehended it for I could See nothing that could possibly give offense, but the Contrary I Said there was no answer could be Given to things in General, if he would point out what gave offense, I would surely declare my opinion whether there was ground for it

On Monday or Tuesday last he brought my Letter & pointed out Sundry places, & what the Gov<sup>r</sup> Said of them—I Showed him the very contrary of what his Ex<sup>y</sup> Said, appeared by those places to be true, & wondered how his Ex<sup>y</sup> could so misapprehend and upon all being pointed out, I Declared to him in the Strongest Terms, that no one of these places could justly in my opinion give the least cause of offense &c

The Doctor desired me to write my opinion in a few lines,—I begg'd his Excuse, for that as his Ex<sup>y</sup> was Lyable to misapprehend things (as now was evident) I Should be very wary of giving his Excellency any thing in writing from me, least he should misapprehend it

The Doctor Seemed perfectly Satisfied of his Excellencys misapprehensions, and promised his best Endeavours to Set his Ex<sup>y</sup> right before he wrote to you.—Yesterday & not till then the Doctor came here & told me, his Ex<sup>y</sup> was Concerned of his misapprehensions upon his farther Considering your Letter to me (which I had given to the Doctor again along, & his Ex<sup>y</sup> has it as yet) And had wrote an answer to you Signifying his Satisfaction in the points insinuated

I assure you till yesterday I was not under a little uneasyness at his Ex<sup>ys</sup> So groundlesely in my opinion taking offense but I now verily believe it was owing to meer misapprehension & Lowness of Spirits, by his being there alone without Cheerfull Company

I know of nothing new to write to you nor any thing farther to add but that I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

P. S. I Doubt not you  
have Seen the advertisement  
of M<sup>r</sup> Kinnerslys Lectures on  
Electricity—I have been to  
See both, & I assure you he  
performs them Extremely well  
being a Master of words as well  
as of the Experimants

[Indorsed]

To The honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att Coldingham

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*From James Alexander*

Is there no Such thing as a map of the Province by it self that one might see how the Boundaries are Laid

down: I mean of any Standing for surely the Construction of Delaware Bay is a new thought. If there be any Map whether old or new it would be very Acceptable and I would give any price for it: Be pleased to furnish me with the Number of Taxables in the Province: & if not map with some, Idea of the Counties

NEW YORK June 17<sup>th</sup> 1752

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

I wrote to you on Saturday last, & Sent it to M<sup>r</sup> Nichols's This day I have a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Peters wherof one paragraph is above—he means the province of New York, of which he desires a map, as for my part I cannot recollect to have ever Seen any, if you have any, Such & will favour me with a Coppy for him I will readily pay what you think reasonable for it Evans' map gives the Lines of the Counties well Enough—if you have any of the late lists of the numbers of people I should be glad you would favour me with a Coppy of that also for him; for we don't in this province understand the term *number of taxables*, I have coppy of the Last in 1732 which I shall Send him coppy of I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To the honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN ESQ  
att Coldingham.

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*Cadwallader Colden to B. Franklin*

[Copy]

It may be expected that the inflection of Light in passing near the Surfaces of bodies should be next explained on the same principles It is observed that if a ray of light let into a dark room through a small pin hole & any small body be placed on this ray the shadow of the body becomes greater than it aught to be as is more



particularly shewn by several experiments in the 3<sup>d</sup> book of S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton's optics. But as I think that these phenomena are not the immediat effects of the Principles which I have assumed but of a subtile elastic fluid much more elastic & subtile than air which surrounds the component parts of all bodies & forms atmospheres round them & which extend to a great distance in proportion to the bulk of the particles. But as I am not furnished with sufficient experiments or observations for discovering the properties of this fluid & am not in humour to pursue these speculations farther I shall leave this enquiry to others. I shall only add that I think all the phenomena of electricity plainly prove the existence of such an elastic fluid. Perhaps these hints may be of some use to a more able hand on explaining the surprising phenomena of electricity

S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton's explication of the double refraction observed in Island Chrystal from different properties in the different sides of the rays of light gives me the least satisfaction of any thing which this sagacious author has attempted to explain. It seems more probable to me that the unusual refraction observed in that chrystal is more properly an inflection of Light by some regular intermixture of this elastic fluid in the strata composing that chrystal but as I never saw any Island chrystal I am incapable of pursueing this hint farther

I imagine that this elastic fluid is more & more dense as it approaches the Surface of bodies & for some distance within them as is likewise observed in the air surrounding the earth. That in dense bodies it soon comes to an equal density throughout the body at small distance from the Surface but that in the air the difference of the density of its parts extend to some considerable distance from the surface of air surrounding any body. That where the greater density of this fluid there the elasticity of the other is more lessened & consequent a reaction towards the most dense parts that way but this reaction may from this cause be different from that of the cubes or square of the distances

That many of the Phenomena of Electricity arise from this fluids being much more condensed & accumulated in one part than another & that the reaction of the other being lessened in any one part where it is thus condensed by the approach of a reacting body round & within which it is not near so much condensed it rushes with great violence into the less condensed till the subtile elastic fluid become equally dense in both bodies

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*Cadwallader Colden to Elizabeth Delancey*

[Copy]

Your brother Cadwallader designing to make you a visit before he returns from New York your present situation in respect to your Children & servants has given me some reflections that I imagine may be of some use to you Your Mother tells me that you were unresolved whether to send your sons to Dr Johnson again. They are too young to go to any business & if you keep them at home they will give you perpetual uneasiness by their eagerness after play & may acquire bad habits of Idleness & such a love of diversions that may render them unwillingly apply to any business afterwards I therefor think it will be of great advantage to your children as well as for your own peace & comfort that they be sent to some school or other & be put under a Master who is likely to have sufficient authority over them to restrain any unruly appetites to which lively healthy children are most exposed. As Peter has an inclination to learning it is a pity he should be baulked & therefor I think you should indulge him in it with pleasure whether his inclinations to the Church continue or not learning will be of use to him either in Law or Physic & indeed in every state of life You should endeavour to educate your children to different kinds of business, for thereby their several interests will not clash with one another but on the contrary they will thereby become

more usefull to each other by promoteing their mutual benefits & advantage. When Peter shall have made some advance in the things commonly learned at schools it will give me much pleasure to assist him in making a further progress than his commonly made in this country

My dear child as your cares grow upon you I am concerned that you do not fall under a misfortune which they who are the most carefull are in the greatest danger that is of acquiring an angry or peevish & fretfull temper I beg of you to guard against it as much as possible as nothing will make your life more disagreeable to your self & others or indanger the esteem of a husband who must often see & hear the disagreeable effects of such a temper nothing will make you loose your authority of your servants so much as this will. It will in short either destroy or give a bitterness to all your pleasure A calm reproof or chastisement mixed at other times with a benevolent aspect & kind treatment will certainly do more than perpetual chiding for this last certainly begets distaste & disregard & perhaps hatred & may produce all the wicked consequences of malice Chiding does not deterr but irritates Whereas the other begetts love & respect

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*From James Alexander*

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

NEW YORK, July 10<sup>th</sup> 1752

three days agoe I received yours of june 30<sup>th</sup> and Same day rec<sup>d</sup> from D<sup>r</sup> Ayscough a Letter with the inclosed paragraph from M<sup>r</sup> Catherwood

the Doctor in the Letter acquainted me that M<sup>r</sup> Chambers continued in opinion that the Suspension would not be valid without being qualified to the Comm<sup>n</sup> or an actual refusal so to be, or to appear on Summons & that his Ex<sup>y</sup> would talk the matter over with M<sup>r</sup> Chambers & me att Basses

accordingly we dined together yesterday at Basses



& the Gov<sup>r</sup> called M<sup>r</sup> Chambers & me aside to talk over the point, his arguments the Same as you have heard before, mine the Same as I used before, with a Case put in Something stronger Light viz

Suppose his Ex<sup>y</sup> has reason to believe, that J: A has, or Some body for him has, obtained a Commission for Lieut Gov<sup>r</sup>, and that his Ex<sup>y</sup> thinks J A an unfitt person. Is it not in his Ex<sup>ys</sup> power by the words of his Comm<sup>n</sup> to Suspend J.A.—answer that's not the case—Suppose further that his Ex<sup>y</sup> summons J.A. to declare if he has Such a Com<sup>n</sup> or not, & if he has to produce it & be qualified, & J A will not appear—agreed that would be good reason to Suspend—& So if his Ex<sup>y</sup> had the Com<sup>n</sup> to J A & if his Ex<sup>y</sup> Summoned J A to accept & he qualified, & if J A would not appear or refuse to be acceptor he qualified

Wheron agreed that that method should be taken—his Ex<sup>y</sup> afterwards read Catherwoods Letter to Kennedy, the Mayor, M<sup>r</sup> Chambers & me who all dined there & all thought it best to delay the Suspension till Cornees arriveal

I assure you I was very glad that his Ex<sup>y</sup> agreed to the method before, for I think it will take from folks that very idle argument that has prevailed & tho utterly groundless has Swayed men that I thought of more Sense than to be Swayed by it

his Ex<sup>y</sup> talkt of going as soon as the Ship could be manned & be ready, & She wants but 16 men his Lady talkt that the Hurricane month was just at hand & best delay till the 10<sup>th</sup> of September & the Company all of her opinion but his Ex<sup>y</sup>.—another reason of delay was the Difference of the Conveniency of the 40 gun Ship comeing beyond those of this 20 gun Ship—I think of nothing to add but that I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To The honourable  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att Coldingham

*From George Clinton.*

GREENWICH 28 July 1752

S<sup>r</sup>

M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton and my self haveing been often asked by our Friends, if we had not taken up Lands for our Selves and Children, our Answer was, that as we were going home so soon, we did not think it worth our whiles, and in short, did not know in what method to do it, for want of proper Information, and that very few Lands had been granted till lately.

But as Contrary to my Inclinations and Expectation, I now find I am to remain in the Province, God knows how long, I can't but think it incumbent on me for the sake of my Family, to do what I can for them; And being informed that one Fourth of all Lands patented are vested in the Crown & set a part for the use of the King, and consequently for myself which was done, I believe, by your Regulation for the Benefit of Governours; and as the Purchas and Survey are paid by the Petitioners, I must think I have a just Right of such Fourth, to take out Patents for the same for my Family & Friends, I shall be much obliged to you to put me into a Method how to do it; As I have been so often pressed to it by my Friends to take up a Fourth of all future Patents granted, while I stay on the Spot. I must rely on your Friendship, that in all the Returns of Survey to come, you will do the King justice by impartially dividing the Lands, so that His Majesty's fourth may be as good as any of the other three parts, and when so divided, I can but think it just, that Lots may be drawn for the Fourth. Your assistance and advice what are the proper steps to be taken will oblige

S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Servant

G CLINTON

The Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq

*From Benjamin Franklin*

N.S.

PHILAD<sup>A</sup> Sept. 14, 1752

Dear Sir,

When I had read your Favour of May the 14<sup>th</sup> I resolved to read and consider more carefully Sir Isaac Newton's Optics, which I have not look'd at these many Years. I delay'd answering, till I should have an Opportunity of doing this; but one thing or other has hitherto hindered. In the Winter I may possibly have more Leisure

In the mean time I would just mention, That the Interposition of a Hill between a Bell and the Ear, does interrupt great Part of the Sound, tho' not all; And we cannot be certain that an opaque Body plac'd between the Eye and a luminous Body intercepts all the Lights, since, as you observe, it does not follow that where we see no Light there is therefore none existing. What you say of the Separation of the distinct Parts of Light, which once separated remain always the same, has more Weight with me, and indeed seems conclusive; at least I see at present nothing to object.

I congratulate you on the Prospect you have, of passing the Remainder of Life in philosophical Retirement. I wish for the same,—but it seems too distant. I might then more punctually perform my Part in the Correspondence you honour me with; than which I have none more instructive or agreeable.

Send me, if you please, the Translation of your Piece into High Dutch. I understand a little of the German Language, and will peruse & return it. At present, I cannot guess the Meaning of the Passage you mention. Unless perhaps, as your 20<sup>th</sup> Section speaks of "a Power that neither resists nor moves, and exerts no kind of Action of itself, without the Concurrence of some other Power; so that in the Absence of other Powers it must be in perfect Inaction &c." it may be some kind of Dutch Wit, and intended to joke that QUIETISM which in



Germany is supposed to be very prevalent in Pensilvania, many of their Quietists having removed hither

I see by Cave's May Magazine they have translated my Electrical Papers into French, and printed them in Paris. I hope our Friend Collinson will procure and Send me a Copy of the Translation. Such Things should be done by Men skilled in the Subject as well as in the Language, otherwise great Mistakes are easily made, and the clearest Matters rendred obscure and unintelligible.

I am sorry you could not see Mr Kinnorsley's Lectures; they would have pleas'd you. I send you Mr Wilson's Book, which I just receiv'd from London, and think it contains the best Directions for the Use of the Machine that are extant. When you have done with it please to return it to

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most hum<sup>b</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

*From George Clinton to James Alexander*

GREENWICH Octob<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1752

S<sup>r</sup>

Doctor Ayscough, this afternoon, shewed me your Letter, with your Opinion on the Presentment of the Grand-Jury of Ulster County, against the present Sheriff on account of Escapes from that County Goal, as by D<sup>r</sup> Coldens Letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Instant.

As for what the Doctor seems to apprehend of some persons makeing a bad use of it, either to the Assembly here or the Ministry at home, I am not the least uneasy: For as you very justly observe, all that can be expected of me is to appoint for Offices Men that are qualified by recommendations of those, that have personal knowledge of them, to be fit Persons for executing such Offices: As it can not be supposed that I should have a circumstantial Intelligence of every Man in the Province. Besides

the late Sheriff declined takeing out a Commission for continuing in the Office; Upon which the Assembly Men of that County applyed to me for a Friend of theirs to have the Office, which I readily granted, and at the same time told them it was indifferent to me who was Sheriff, (but afterwards one of them told D<sup>r</sup> Ayscough the man would not accept it) as it really was; for since I have been in the Province I never directly or indirectly made any Fee or Reward of the Sheriff's Office; and if any officer acts illegally the Law is open against him for to answer for it and I am certain I cannot be blameable, after such Caution in appointing

At the end of the Doctor's Letter to you I am surprized to see that Paragraph, where in, he says, "he is afraid of being from home, or travelling in the Cold", which appears to me as a preparatory hint of Excuse for not coming down at the next Sessions, which is what I could never have imagined to have seen from him, after his Protestations to me & M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton, saying, that should he stay away now, it would appear to every one, as if what he had done before, had been only with a prospect of Lucre.

As you was of the same Opinion with me yesterday that it was absolutely necessary that he should come down to prevent Reflections, I should be glad if you would write to him upon that head. I am much obliged to you for communicating his Letter to me, and am;

S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Servant

G CLINTON

[Indorsed]

To The Hon<sup>ble</sup> JAMES ALEXANDER Esq.

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*From James Alexander to Dr Ayscough*

Sir

NEW YORK October 7<sup>th</sup> 1752

Yesterday morning after 9 oclock I received the inclosed Letter, & a little time afterwards M<sup>r</sup> Haasbrook

came to bid me farewell as he was going out of town—I then Enquired of him concerning the Letter want<sup>d</sup> by Dr Colden & he told me that Coll Gaasbeek gave it to him to Deliver here—he Said it was Directed to both the judges of the Supream Court, and that as both were out of town, he had Left it with William Livingston to Deliver to them

I Did not incline to give the enclosed to his Excellency yesterday when on a party of pleasure, but I Leave it to you to communicate when you shall think most proper Very possibly Some may have thought of makeing the bad use of that presentment which Doctor Colden apprehends, but I am of opinion that nothing (so far as I can See) can be made of it to his Excellencys Disadvantage, for his Excellency can never be presumed to be answerable for the officers he appoints, even if they Should misbehave, but all that's mentioned might have happened without any misbehaviour in them, as Such accidents do frequently happen

All that can in reason be Expected of his Excellency is to appoint for offices men fitly qualified at the time of the appointment, & that they give the accustomed Security, which it Seems was the case here, and Should Such officers be guilty of any misbehaviour or neglect of their offices the Law is open to punish them for it, which I am Sure his Excellency would never Screen them from, and unless his Ex<sup>y</sup> did So, there can be no just reason of Complaint of him

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*From La Galissoniere to Cadwallader Colden*

PARIS October 10. 1752

Sir

The Astronomers here have a Little Too Late Proposed To me To get at Quebeck Observation made of the Passage of Mercury upon the Sun which should happen the Beginning of May Next. I Cannot do this



which Concerns all Nations who Desire the perfection of Geographie and Astronomy but by a Jesuite Professor of Hydrographie at Quebeck but it's Impossible that he should receive the Letter unless you'll forward it by Boston or New York. I send you Duplicate of it that you may send by Different Vessells and I send it Open To you that you may see that Nothing in it Concerns the Government

The Taste which I Know you have for every thing that may Be usefull and agreeable To mankind makes me hope that You'll favour the passage of that Letter—I am with a respectfull Attachment

Sir

Your most humble and most obedient  
Servant

LA: GALISSONIERE

PARIS October 10, 1752

Reverend father

I send you Quadruplicates at Least of a Memorial of M de L' Isle of the Academy of Sciences to direct you in an Observation of Mercury which is strongly Desired should be Made at Quebeck but unhappily I was not acquainted with this Till this day and it's a great Chance if any of these Memorials Will Come in Time To you. I am with a True Attachment Reverend Father your most humble and most Obedient Servant

LA: GALISSONIERE

To The Reverend  
Reverend father  
Bone Camp Jesuite  
at Quebeck

Memorial mentioned in the Last

The Passage of Mercury upon the Sun of the 6 of  
May 1753 To Observe in Canada

The Passage of Mercury upon the sun of the 6 of May 1753 is One of the most Curious and usefull Observations that Can be made for Astronomy & Geographie—by the Exact Knowledge had of the Motion of that planette it may be Assured with Certainty that Mercury will pass out of the sun at Quebeck about three Quarters after five

of the morning of the 6 of May this will be near half an hour after the sun's rising if there were Astronomers in that Country. Capable To Observe Well that Emission and the Situation of Mercury upon the sun some Time before the Emersion it would be of the greatest Advantage To Astronomy and Geography there wants Only for this an Astronomical Clock [a Good Clock I suppose & which Shows Seconds to Such a one] a Quadrant for To Regulate the Clock and a Good Telescope the Quadrant may also Serve to observe the Situation of Mercury upon the sun before the Emersion as I am about To show

There is Herewith a plan in Which the great Circle Represents the Suns Disk and the Little Circles Represent Mercury as it Will appear after the Rising of the sun Untill it Emerges out of the Disk of the sun the Situation of Mercury upon the sun will be Different According as The Telescope Represents Objects Direct or inverted for that Reason I have Wrote upon the plan *the Direct figure*, or, *the Inverted figure* You must be Governed by One of these Two Inscriptions according As the Telescope shall Represent the Object direct or Inverted When the Telescope does not Invert the Objects you must hold the paper so that the Cross x be at Top then you'll see that Mercury will Emerge at the Right hand by its approaching To the Western Limb of the sun following the Numbers 1.2.3.4.5.6.7. in Figure I or following the Letters A B C in figure II But if you use a Telescope which Inverts the Objects you must hold the paper in an Inverted Situation so that the Cross x Be at Bottom & then you'll see that Mercury in On the Left Side of The Sun in Going out and appearing To approach the Limb of the van according To the Letters ABCDEFG in figures

Or According To the Letters M N O Of figure 2

The figure 2 Serves To Represent more Distinctly whats To be Observed at the time of the Emersion of Mercury from the Disk of the Sun for that Reason it is that the Body of Mercury is there more Distinctly Represented by the Small Circles A B C or M N O and the

Limb of the Sun by the arc DE and for making the Observations Well that are desired there ought To be used a Telescope so Long and so good as that the Disk of Mercury may appear as round and as Large (if it be possible) as it is seen upon the figure for then the Observations may be Made the more Exactly

There are three Principal Moments To Observe When Mercury shall be in A or in M One of it's Diameters Distant from the Limb of the sun. 2<sup>d</sup> the moment that Mercury shall be in B or in N it's Limb touching that of the sun which is Called The Interior Contact Or the Beginning of the Emersion. 3<sup>d</sup> the moment of the Intire Emersion Or of the Exterior Contact when the Two Limbs of the sun and mercury appear as To Touch in parting. To these three moments there may Another be Added to Witt the moment when by your sight *you Esteem* the Center of Mercury to appear upon the Limb of the sun but as that Moment Cannot be Judged of but by Estimation I have said *you Esteem* But you must be principally Attentive to the Two moments of the beginning of the Emersion and the Intire Emersion, which Two moments shall follow one the Other. about three minutes and Seventeen Seconds Distance of Time—there is no Time To be Lost in marking with the Greatest possible precision The two moments of the Contact Interior & Exterior,—if you are very Attentive and have a good Telescope these two Moments may be Remark't with the precision of a Second or of the Twinkling of an Eye—the first Contact or Interior Contact is when the Light of the Limb of the sun begins To Seperate. And the Exterior Contact or End of the Emersion is when the Light of the Limb of the sun (which had been Separated for more than three minutes) Comes To meet

With Regard To the Other Observations which may be made To Determine the Situation of Mercury upon the sun before it's so near the Limb as To Observe it's Emersion as I have already shewn I say these Other observations want only a Quadrant with a Telescope To it in which there is a vertical Threed & Horizontall



Threed but the Telescope must be so Good and so Long that you can perceive Mercury upon the sun tho' it should not appear bigger than a point it's Enough if it be distinguished—Direct then the Telescope To the sun as soon as it appears Distinctly, after it's riseing and Leaving the Telescope in that position fix't while the sun and Mercury pass over it. Observe the moments in which Mercury and the Limbs of the sun pass over the vertical Threed and Horizontal Threed after that they have so passed and the precise Moments by the Clock mark't of Each of those passages move the Telescope To make them pass the same way a Second Time and afterwards a third Time &c

You may in Every Different Situation of the Telescope of the Quadrant observe the passages of the Limbs of the sun at the Same threed for Example the upper Limb and Lower Limb at the Horizontal Threed and the preceeding and following Limb at the vertical Threed. And which with the Two moments of The passage of Mercury by the Horizontal Threed and vertical Threed Would be six moments To Observe in every situation of the Telescope But it's not Necessary To make all these Observations it will be enough To Observe the Horizontal threed the passages of Mercury and one of the Limbs of the sun Either upper or Lower To Witt that which Shall be most Convenient or which shall pass Nearest To the Passage of Mercury the same may be said of the vertical threed and it will be sufficient there to observe besides the passage of Mercury that one of the Limbs of the sun Either proceeding or following which shall pass nearest To Mercury so that these Observations I have Spoke of are Reduced to four And even Two only need be made in Each Situation of the Telescope But then those Observations should be made Alternately that is To Say after haveing Observed the passages Only by the Horizontal Threed you must Immediately after in the near Situation of the Telescope Observe them by the Vertical Threed afterwards in another Situation by the Horizontal Threed and so go on Alternately Takeing

Care to make these Observations follow one another as quickly as possible it's not Necessary To say that Care must be Taken in every of these Situations that the Telescope be well fixed without being Subject To be Disturbed that the Quadrant be well seated and that the Horizontal and vertical Threeds be in the Situation Required Dureing the Observations

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*From Cadwallader Colden to Benjamin Franklin*

COLDENHAM Oct<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1752

To M<sup>r</sup> FRANKLIN

D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

I now send back to you Wilson on Electricity for the use of which I am much obliged My youngest son the only one I have with me hopes to be able to make Electrical experiments tolerably well M<sup>r</sup> Wilson I think is on the true scent of the cause of Electricity though it be plain he is not sufficiently informed of the nature of that elastic fluid which he calls *Æther* to be able sufficiently to account for the Phenomena In my Opinion some more perfect knowledge of the Air than we have is likewise necessary & the cause of the cohesion of the parts of bodies which last has been lately the subject of my Meditations No tollerable account of this so far as I know has been given by any Philosopher & if this can be accounted for from my Principles it will go a great way to confirm them. I hope to let you see something on this head At present I shall only mention one Theorem viz That the parts or particles of Bodies are at a great distance from each other in the ratio of their bulk To prove this it is supposed that the solid particles of inert matter are impenetrable by light or that Light cannot be in the same space with matter Then since light freely passes through pellucid bodies in streight lines & in all directions with a very small diminution of its quantity, the distance between the particles of pellucid bodies must be very great in proportion to their bulk if the prodigious

number of those particles be considered which must be in a pellucid body of any bulk. This may be easily conceived by placing a number of points in any order & considering how they must stop the progress of light in many directions. Again the number of particles in the same quantity of space in several bodies is as their specific gravities now considering the difference of specific Gravity of pellucid bodies and of any other opac body that it does not arise to a great degree the parts of all bodies must be a great distance from each other in proportion to their bulk. S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton accounts for the cohesion of the parts of bodies from the stronger attraction in little bodies than in great bodies but if this were the cause the parts of bodies must run together into mutual contact if some other power do not keep them seperated what I call *Æther* is essentially different from M<sup>r</sup> Wilson's *Æther* & from that Elastic fluid which I think produces electrical phenomena. S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton was far from having clear conceptions of what I call *Æther* though he perceived from the Phenomena that some such medium must necessarily exist between the several bodies in the Universe & within them between their component parts

I have at last got the remarks on the First causes of Action in Matter well translated by M<sup>r</sup> Hartwick a Lutheran Minister who is well acquainted with the German systems of Philosophy & thereby more capable of making a good Translation. I have likewise drawn up an answer to the remarks which I expect may assist you to form a better conception of my principles & of the truth of them than what you have allready seen I now send both the remarks & answer to M<sup>r</sup> Alexander & I shall desire him to transmit them to you if he do not think it necessary to alter any thing in the answer. In the mean time I send you the original remarks in the German language that you may the better judge of the Translation when you shall see it

The remarks & Answer are chiefly on the Metaphysical parts of my System. The same subject is treated in



D<sup>r</sup> Johnson's Noctria but in a very different manner. I hope from your Friendship that you will give me your sentiments without reserve & I beg that you will take some pains because I have some distant prospect of being able to explain the phenomena of Electricity from my Principles with your assistance If this can be don I am persuaded that the greatest improvement will thereby be made in the most usefull parts of Physics I conceive that Fermentations of all sorts arise from Electricity & that the life & vegetation of Animals & Vegetables arise from Fermentation if so the knowledge of Electricity must give great light in Medecine & Agriculture. For this reason I will gladly take pains & remove any difficulties you may have in receiving or conceiving these Principles I have not as yet heard that the Principles of Action on Matter is published though I had the first sheet sent me in January last

P.S This having lain by me some days for an opportunity to send it I have in that time seen in the News papers the Account of the Electrical Kite I hope a more perfect & particular account will be published in a manner to preserve it better & to give it more Credit than it can obtain from a common News paper I wish you would attempt some experiments to know whether the Electrical fluid can be drawn from fermenting liquors or mixtures I propose to try but what may fail with me may succeed with you, you have such sagacity in contriving proper experiments for any propose you have in view The fluids before a Thundergust & often in the time of it appear to be in a violent intestine motion or fermentation

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*Cadwallader Colden to James Parker*

M<sup>r</sup> Parker

As the terrible distemper from the Bite of a Mad Dog has but since a very few years been known in

America & has lately spread from the Southern Colonies into this it may be of general use to publish a cure of that Disease which D<sup>r</sup> Mead published in the News papers in England. His authority is such that it can need nothing to be added to it to recommend it farther than what he says of it in his Treatise of Poysons viz "I can safely affirm, that (whether any outward application was made or not) I have never known this method to fail of success when it has been followed before the *Hydrophobia* (Dread of Water) began: although in the course of about thirty years (besides the experience made by others both in the Town & Country) I have used it a thousand times. I have often wished that I knew so certain a remedy in any other desease"

A Certain Cure for the Bite of a Mad Dog Let the Patient be blooded &c. p. 163 As this Medecine I believe is not kept in the shops in this Province & may be known to few even of the Practitioners I send you a Specimen of it as it grows on the ground usually among Moss on cold clay grounds inclining to moisture

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*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE 8 Nov<sup>br</sup> 1752

S<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency being up to the Elbows in pen Ink and Paper, in dispatching by the Albany Cap<sup>t</sup> Corne has not time to write himself by this opportunity, but orders me to acquaint you, that in pursuance of your Letter to him some time before he fixed for his Departure, wherein you desire to purchase his Land in Danbury Township, patented in my Name, for which you offered him £400, and he said he would accept of your proposal. But your Silence on that head when down here, makes him think you had dropt your design, or forgot it, as well as he had to mention it to you. But as there is now

application made for it, he desires your Answer on that head, as he will do nothing in it till he has your Determination, dureing which time the Affair will lay still I am with my Best Compliments of the Season to your Lady and Family

S<sup>r</sup>

Your most obedient  
very humble Servant  
[No signature]

All the good Family  
are well and join in  
Compliments to all  
NB. inter nos, dispatch  
in your Answer may be Beneficial  
to you and will be agreeable here

D<sup>r</sup> COLDEN  
[Indorsed]

To The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq

Ⓟ favour of M<sup>r</sup> HASBROOK

[NOTE—This letter wa really written December 8, as letter of Jan. 4, 1753 shows.—Edr.]

*From Peter Collinson*

BERLIN Novem<sup>r</sup>: 21: 1752

Professor Eulers Remarks on a Book intiteld the Principles of Action in Matter by Gravitation & the Motion of the planets explain'd Ⓟ Cad: Colden Esq<sup>s</sup>  
To the Reverend M<sup>r</sup> Wetstein

I thank you S<sup>r</sup> for the Treatise of the American Philosopher who endeavours to explain the Physical Cause of Universal Gravitation

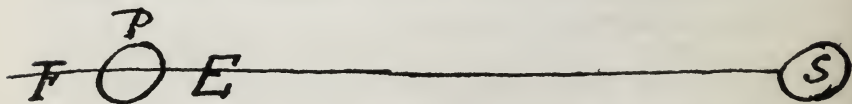
The Book contains many Ingenious Reflections upon that Subject for a Man that has not entirely devoted Himself to the Study of it

Butt at the Bottome he has not acquitted Himself so Well as I expected in the explanation which he has undertaken to give



He immediately discovers his Little Motion in Mechanics, when he attempts to attack the best Establish'd propositions of the late S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton, by maintaining upon reasons destitute of all Foundation, that a planet being attracted towards the Sun in a reciprocal Ratio of the Squares of the distances, & haveing approach'd the Sun till its perihelion cannot afterwards move again from the Sun to return to its aphelion. This shows but little knowledge of the principles of Motion & entirely disqualifies the author from Establishing the True Forces requisite to the Motion of the Planets, from whatever Cause He may attempt to Derive them Besides his explication founded on the Elasticity of the Ether, is so ill imagined, that it is absolutely contrary to the first principles of Hydrostaticks. What an absurdity it is to assert, that the Ether between Two of the Coelesial Bodies, has not the same Spring with that of the Rest, for the Same Reasons the Author ought to affirm, that the Spring of the Air contain'd in a Room is much less than that of the free air, which is however contrary both to reason & Experience

For my own part, I had the Same Designe (in my Discourse on the Loadstone which carried the prize in 1744) to Seek for the Cause of Universal Gravity in the Spring of the Air, but I took a methode very different & very conformable to the principles of mechanics. for I shewed, that the ether must be in a very great motion near the Celestial Bodies which decreases in proportion to its distance from them. Then it is certain from the Nature of the Motion of Fluids, that their pressure is least where the Motion is most rapid, but without motion the pressure would be Every where the same.



That the Sun being in S — the ether round the Sun would be in a Motion, the Celerity of which would be greater in proportion as the Suns distance was less con-

ceiving therefore a planet in P the motion of the Ether in E would be greater than in F since the point E is nearer the Sun than F & consequently the pressure of the Ether would be less in E then in F the planet would therefore be more strongly pressed in F then in E & consequently be pass'd directly towards the Sun

Haveing added to this consideration the principles of the pressure of Fluids, I find, that the force by which the planet must be push'd towards the Sun, is exactly proportionable reciprocally to the Squares of the Distance now from the same cause it follows, that any Two planets whatever must be push'd on together in the same proportion

If Mr Colden had taken this method He would perhaps have Succeeded Better.

Besides this, he has Recourse to the Rays of the Sun, to bring the planets to their aphelia from a false Motion, that this cannot be the Effect [of] Centripetall Force

vera Copia

P COLLINSON

March 7, 1753

My Dr fr<sup>d</sup>

in my trouble this Coppy was not to be found Since I lucklessly met with it

Y<sup>rs</sup> P COLLINSON

[Indorsed]

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
in New York

⌘ BRYANT

*From George Clinton*

FORT GEORGE 28 Nov<sup>br</sup> 1752

S<sup>r</sup>

At present I am so ill with a pain in my head, that I can not write my self, but am obliged to make use of the Doctor, by whom I acknowledge the receipt of yours of 18 Instant; I am sorry for your Indisposition, but (as it

happened) we have done very well without you; I suppose the Books you have come and the Answer to your Address to Lord Macklesfield will be full Employment for you this Winter. As for News I have very little or none, my Friends all hoping to see me, when these Ships come away, I hear that there is no Gov<sup>r</sup> appointed yet to succeed me, nor can they tell when there will.

I am Sorry your Son Cadwallader should be at the Expence of a Survey of so many Miles without Success for I thought, that when he set out upon it, the thing was certain; However I hope he has made it up in some other Surveys at the same Time.

As to C: J: Morris and Cap<sup>t</sup> Rutherford, they are neither of them come, I received a Letter last Night from Capt Rutherford in which he tells me he expects to be over in the Spring, I suppose much about the time the Chief Justice will come too, but writes me no News, as he is in Scotland. All the London ships are now arrived, and I expect no News till Spring, I am

S<sup>r</sup>

Your very humble Servant

P.S.

G CLINTON

M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton and Miss . . . .

Join with me in our Compliments  
of the approaching Season to  
M<sup>rs</sup> Colden your Self and Family

D<sup>r</sup> COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at Coldingham  
to be left at Cap<sup>t</sup> COLDEN's  
at Newberry

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*From Benjamin Franklin*

PHILAD<sup>a</sup> Jan. 1, 1753

Dear Sir,

I have your Fav<sup>e</sup> of the 3<sup>d</sup> past with your Son's Remarks on the Abbe Nollet's Letters. I think the Ex-



periments and Observations are judiciously made, and so well express'd that with your & his Leave, I would transmit them to M<sup>r</sup> Collinson for Publication. I have repeated all the Abbe's Experiments in Vacuo, and find them answer exactly as they should do on my Principles, and in the material Part quite contrary to what he has related of them; so that he has laid himself extreamly open by attempting to impose false Acc<sup>ts</sup> of Experiments on the World to support his Doctrine. M<sup>r</sup> Dalibard wrote me that he was preparing an Answer that would be published the Beginning of this Winter; but as he seems to have been impos'd on by the Abbe's confident Assertion that a charg'd Bottle set down on an Electric <sup>th</sup> se is depriv'd of its Electricity and in his Letter to me attempts to account for it, I doubt he is not yet quite Master enough of the Subject to do the Business effectually; so I conclude to write a civil Letter to the Abbe myself in which, without resenting his Chicanery or any thing else in his Letters, I shall endeavour to set the disputed Matters in so clear a Light, as to satisfy every one that will take the Trouble of Reading it. Before I send it home, I shall communicate it to you, and take your Friendly Advice on it. I set out to-morrow on a Journey to Maryland, where I expect to be some Weeks; but shall have some Leisure when I return. At present I can only add my Thanks to your ingenious Son, and my hearty Wishes of a happy New Year to you & him and all yours. I am, Sir,

Your obliged, & most obed<sup>t</sup>  
hum<sup>bl</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

P.S. I wrote to you last Post, and sent my Paper on the Increase of Mankind. I send the Supplemental Electrical Experi<sup>ts</sup> in several Fragments of Letters; of which Cave has made the most, by printing some of them twice over.

[Indorsed]

The hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN  
Coldengham

Free

B FRANKLIN

*From John Ayscough*

FORT GEORGE Jan<sup>ry</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1753

S<sup>r</sup>

Being greatly hurried in finishing his Excellency's Dispatches by Captain Bryant, it prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your Favour in answer to mine of 8<sup>th</sup> of November by M<sup>r</sup> Hasbrook, which I must confess was an Error in me, for it was wrote 8<sup>th</sup> December (as ~~in~~ my Letter Book) but I see I had put Novb<sup>r</sup> for Dec<sup>br</sup> another Blunder of mine was not signing my Name to it, for both which I beg your Excuse, hoping that you will be so good as to attribute it entirely to an Oversight, by hurrying to dispatch it by M<sup>r</sup> Hasbrook, who was just going away.

I very well remember your telling me that a part of the Tract of Land, patented in my Name and conveyed to his Excellency from me, would be of great Service to you, as you had a Lot directly opposite to his, on the other side of a Brook or River, and where, as you told me, some of your Tenants had settled, (tho' on his Excellency's Land) as I have seen in a Draught of both Patents; And if I rightly remember you told me, you made no Doubt, but the Governour would let you have that Lot, as it would be of a very great Convenience to your Tenants and service to you, the stream being very proper for a Mill, this I acquainted his Excellency with, as your desired me, But really cannot charge my Memory at this time with his Answer, if he gave me any, neither did I know any thing of your proposal till he told me the morning I wrote to you by his Order upon it.

I communicated your Letters to his Excellency, and he tells me, that thinking it had slip'd your thoughts, when down here last, as it had his, otherwise he would have mentioned it to you, as he imagined; it would be of more value to you than another for which reason only he would accept of your offer of £400 preferable to any Application notwithstanding that part of the Patent,

which you say, you would still gladly have a hundred Acres of, his Excellency says might probably be equivalent in Value to the whole, as it is low Land, on the River, and consequently not barren Hills and Rocks and may be cleared at much less Expence, yet his Excellency orders me to acquaint you that he will accept of your first Proposals, as the thing may be of Benefit to you, and compensate for the Expence you was at in Surveying it; He would be glad to hear from you on this Head, as he would also upon what you and he talked of when you was here last, on which he was in expectation to have had your Sentiments before now I am with very great Truth

S<sup>r</sup>

Your most obedient and very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JNO: AYSCOUGH

CADWALLADER COLDEN ESQ.

P.S. The whole Family  
join in Compliments of the  
Season to you and Yours

[Indorsed]

To The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN ESQ  
at Coldingham

*Cadwallader Colden to George Clinton*

[Copy]

Jan<sup>ry</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>

S<sup>r</sup>

There are some things in a letter which I received of Mr Harison from D<sup>r</sup> Ayscough of the 4<sup>th</sup> of this month which I think necessary to be answered & which I hope your Excellency will think cannot be properly don otherwise than directly to your self From this letter it is evident that he & perhaps your Excellency thinks that I intended to deceive you in desiring to purchase only that part of the land granted to D<sup>r</sup> Ayscough which is adjoining to a lot of land which I have there. One hundred Acres adjoining to mine by his Account being more



valuable than all the remainder. This has made me resolve to purchase neither the whole nor any part of that land & on this I believe your Excellency thinks I do you no injury. by the manner in which it is continued to be offered to me for the sum your Excell<sup>y</sup> was pleased to agree to accept of from me last summer But at the same time I absolutely deny that I ever told D<sup>r</sup> Ayscough that there was a stream of Water convenient for a Mill adjoining to my Lot Because to my knowledge it is not true The place for a Mill is on Croton's River which runs through my land & consequently my Lot is on both sides of the river The place for a mill is a mile to the Southward of any part of my land And the Meadow ground on Crotons River which I suppose D<sup>r</sup> Ayscough means are not opposite to my Lot but to a Lot belonging to M<sup>r</sup> Smith which adjoins mine to the Southward & these meadow grounds however are nothing of that Value which the D<sup>r</sup> seems to put on them The Doctor has information of the land & I shall say nothing farther on contradiction to what others may say but the truth can easily be proved by ocular Demonstration on the spot If I had only a view to serve my self I could have taken a patent in an others name for the same land without your Excellency's knowing any thing of it as others have don My intention was to serve your Excellency's in it & your Excellency will never in truth discover that I ever intended any thing to the contrary in order to serve myself I have before this observed a Design some where to give your Excellency a prejudice against me I cannot remove it without knowing the Grounds of it others may be more successfull but none can be more faithfull than I have been The D<sup>r</sup> tells me that your Excellency expects to hear from me on what your Excellency talkt to me when last at New York What ever it be it has entirely escaped my memory & therefor I must beg a renewal of your Commands on that head to

*From James Alexander to B. Franklin*

[Copy]

Jan<sup>ry</sup> 26 1753

Sir

What Put me upon giving you the Trouble of this Was the Sight which a few Days agoe I had of some Letters from the Royall Academy of Science's at Paris with directions for Observing in Canada the End of a Transit of Mercury over the sun Which is To happen on the 6 of may Next and by their Estimation about  $\frac{3}{4}$  past five in the morning at Quebeck and that it Ends at or possibly before sun rising at the Lac-Superieur

This made me Look into Lonthorps Abridgment of the Transactions of the Royall Society at London page 431 and by that in the Longitude of  $3^{\circ}$  West of London, (Which I suppose is nearly the Longitude of Phileadelphia as New York by many Observations of the Eclipses of Jupiter's first Satellite was found in  $4^{\text{h.}} 56'$  nearly) it would seem To me that the Transit would End three minutes after Five in the morning but if it does, yet both Interior and Exterior Contacts at the end, may be seen at Phileadelphia, and here the transition may be Seen some minutes before the Contacts, or yet Still Longer in Connecticut Boston Halifax & Louisbourg by reason of their greater Latitudes & Less Longitudes

The Jesuits in China and the East Indies I doubt not will Observe it in Sundry places there as the Whole Continuance of Mercury on the sun will be there Visible and if well Observed there and the End well Observed in North America it will bid the fairest of anything hitherto had To give the Suns parrallax or distance from the Earth for the Triangles made of the Observations in the East Indies. With those here will have known Bases of above  $\frac{3}{4}$  of The Diameter of the Earth; the Next Transit by page 432 is in 1756 but It will not be visible here.

But the Critical Time for Obtaining the suns Parrallax will be the Transit of Venus over the sun (by page

436) the 26 of May 1761 Old stile which in 5<sup>h</sup> west Longitude I esteem will end at 53 after 4 in the Morning and be visible at Phileadelphia for 4 of an hour after Sun rise and much Longer Northward and Eastward

Jones' Abridgment of the Transactions Vol. 4 page 213 &c has a Discourse of Edmond Halley concerning that transit of Venus & a figure of it and by good Observations of that, he Says, the parallax of the sun may be Ascertained to 500 whereas I doubt of its Being Certain now To  $\frac{1}{4}$  for Halley there Supposes it May be  $12\frac{1}{2}$  Seconds Whereas Flamstead in Sundry places of the Transactions from his Observations of Mars when nearest the Earth Esteems it not To Exceed 10"

By Transactions Vol 1 435 & 436 you'll see that No Transit of Venus till the year 2004 Will be visible both here & in the East Indies at the Same time so that if this opportunity be missed there will be None so good for 250 Years To Come To Ascertain this Much Desired point of the Suns parrallax which being Known The Parrallax of all the planets is of Course from thence found

As there are Now Sundry Nurseries of Learning Springing Up in Pensilvania, Jersey, New York, Connecticut & Boston; all ways Should be thought of To Induce each of those To Provide a Proper apparatus for makeing such Observations, Long before the year 1761 that they may be Expert in Takeing Observations of that Kind before that Transit Happens; and in the mean time To be Ascertaining the Longitudes of these places by Observations of the Eclipses of Jupiters first Satellite & the Latitude of the places by good Quadrants for these things should Be Known and Ascertained to Render the Observations of the Transit of use for Ascertainning The Parrallax

Another Reason why Preparation should be made in all these places for that Rare Event, is; that should it happen to be Cloudy in some of these places yet it may be Clear in others and by means of them that have Clear weather the Great End may be Gained; that Event may



Well be Called Rare as Horrox who saw the Last Transit of Venus over the sun On November 24 1639 now 114 years ago is the only one of the Posterity of Adam who has seen one of these Transits

I have said before that the sun's Parrallax is not Ascertained To  $\frac{1}{4}$  part but it seems there is a much greater Difference in Opinion about it than that, for tho' it be Generally Taken now to be 10" yet the Book Called Matho or the Cosmotheoria puerilis printed in 1740 Vol: 2 page 388 &c gives very plausible Reasons why it Cannot be Less than 20" and he thinks 26" a more Reasonable Number For he shows that if the parrallax be only 10" then the point of Equall Attraction Between the Sun & Earth is but 45 Time diameters of the Earth Distant from the Earth but the moons Distance is about 60 & therefore 15 Semi Diameters in its Conjunction Nearer the Sun than the point of Equall Attraction and from thence he Concludes that as there the Attraction is greater To the sun than to the Earth it Could Never Adhere To the Earth but be Drawn from it Towards the sun & allowing the Parrallax to be 20" yet even in that Case the moon Would be sometimes Beyond the point of Equal attraction & 26" Should be allowed To Keep it always within that Point which Reasons prevailed with me to be of his Opinion Till I saw Mr Maclaurins Explanation of Sir Isaac Newtons philosophy which Demonstrates Clearly that tho' the moon Goes Without the point of Equall Attraction as Matho says Yet it Will Adhere to the Earth by Means of its projectile force in its Orbit Round the Sun.

To Point out what apparatus of Instruments should be procured I Know of Nothing Better than To referr to the Abridgments of the Philosophical Transactions where multitudes of Observations of the Heavenly Bodys appear and the Instruments they were Observed with and how, And as To the Observations of the Transit of Mercury in particular and Instruments the Observers made use of, You'll see Largely in the Abridg<sup>t</sup> of

philosophick Transactions Vol: 8 page 194 To 200 & Vol: 4, 213 &c before mentioned

Each of these places which have not a Set of the Abridgments of the philosophick Transactions should in the first place Get them being in 9 Vol: quarto which as they will be Cheaper so will they be Much Easier To Turn To, than the Transactions themselves by Means of the Tables

I find by the preface To Halleys Tables page 3 that No 3 & 6 of the Transactions Contains Halleys Corrections of his Numbers of Mercury But that Volume 6 Containing that Number I have Sent To a Gen<sup>t</sup> Living at 70 miles Distance from here

I find by Halleys Tables that Macao in China is in 7<sup>h</sup> 35' & Pekin in China in 7<sup>h</sup> 45' East Longitude yet by reason of their Nothern Latitudes and the sun Northern Declination at the times of Both the preceeding Transits they may see the ends of them Before the Sun Setts in those places

I have Computed what would be the Lengths of the Bases of triangles made of Observations at Phileadelphia and Observations in the following places in the East Indies, & found them as follows

	<i>Place</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Parts of the Earth's Diameter Supposing the Whole to be</i>
Longitudes and Latitudes Taken from Halley's Tables	Pekin in China	116° 20' E.	39° 54' N.	100,000
	Macao in China	113° 46' E.	22° 13' N.	76.286 85.375
Longitudes and Latitudes Taken from a Map of Asia by Bowdin in 1714	Pondicheri	79° 0' E.	12° 30' N.	87.551
	Batavia	104° 20' E.	6° 20' S.	95.714

On the papers of Directions herewith Mark't A. I would observe that I think them very good and that I find all or most of them in the Transactions and that if

the Observer is acquainted With makeing Observations of that Kind they Seem Rather Too particular. If he is not acquainted then the Neglect of Mentioning the Smoaking the Eyeglass before he Looks at the Sun thro' the Telescope and Quadrant (if they have not Smoak't plain Glasses fitted without the Eyeglass) may run the Observer into the Danger of Looseing an Eye if he is to Observe the figure of the Sun Cast on a paper thro' the Telescope then the Darkning of the Room should have Been mentioned.

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*From James Alexander to Franklin*

NEW YORK January 29 1753

Sir

About a week ago the papers whereof that herewith Mark't A is a Translation were sent to Peruse, and on my returning them With a Translation I begged Leave to Communicate Coppies of them to You and D<sup>r</sup> Colden with Liberty if you thought proper to print them or any Part of them. In Answer To which I obtained the Leave copied at the end of Them. and Struck out La Galissoniere's name, for the reason in the Leave

The Delay of that Leave put me upon dipping into the Abridgment of the Philosophical Transactions to see what there said of the matters in those papers, and from thence I made the Extracts in the paper Herewith Mark't B, by which I find that that which had baffled all the Art of man hitherto To discover with any Tolerable Certainty (Viz: the Suns Distance from the Earth) may with great Certainty be Discovered by the Transit of Venus over the sun the 26 of May 1761 old stile if well Observed in the East Indies and here and there Observations Compared Together

It Would be a great honour To our young Colledges in America if they forthwith prepared themselves with a proper apparatus for that Observation and made it.



Which I Doubt not they would Severally Do if they were Severally put in mind of it and of the great Importance that that Observation would be To Astronomy and that the missing that One Observation cannot be retrieved for 250 years To come

You have on so many Occasions Demonstrated Your Love To Literature and the good of Mankind in General that I thought no person so proper as your self to think of the ways and means of persuading these Colledges to prepare themselves for takeing that Observation and in order to it you may make what use you please of the papers herewith, only not my name

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK febr'y 2<sup>d</sup> 1753

Dear Sir

Mr Nichols having Sent me word yesterday that he had an opportunity to you to morrow If I had any Letters to Send,

Inclosed are coppies of some papers I intend to send on Monday next by the post to Mr franklin, with Copy of my Letter to him, which as they have amused me in this dead time of year may also amuse you a little

I wish you could be here Some days before the 6<sup>th</sup> of May next to assist in prepareing things for the observing the transit of Mercury over the Sun then, and in makeing the observation, for Except your Self & me, I believe there's none in the province any way acquainted with observations of that kind, and our observing that transit might show some young men how to observe the transit of Venus in 1761

There are three reflecting Telescopes in town any of which will Serve for takeing the moments of inner & outer Contacts at the End of the Transit of Mercury—my Clock has a Second hand—& the proprietors Quadrant will do to rectifie the Clock, & the other matters

proposed in Mr d' Lysle's directions—for tho made for the Meridian only, yet by a moveable board made to stand upon it may be easily turned to any point of the Compass but then a plummet must be used at every observation

You have a part of my 6<sup>th</sup> volume of the Transactions I should be glad you would Send it to me by the Spring Sloops

The independent Reflector continues the Spirit he began with, and I believe will prove a very usefull paper

the addresses to Mr Trelawny at his going from Jamaica printed in Parkers last paper, are very Glorious to him, the observations on them there Seem malicious, particularly the Yahoos & ass, which is Supposed to point at a late address not Dictated by the Observer

My wife for two months past has been in a bad state of health, & Continues so, she was oblidged to keep her room for several weeks but if She is able to Crawl she will be in the shop by which she often gets fresh Colds, being very tender—wishing you & your family good health, I remain Dear Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To The honourable  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Coldingham

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK february 12. 1753

Sir

In the Second paragraph of the paper B which I sent You I committed a Great mistake as To the end of the Transit of Mercury the 6 of May next for I find I took the October Smeduration 2<sup>n</sup> 43 Instead of the Aprill Smeduration 3<sup>n</sup> 59½ the Difference is 1<sup>n</sup> 16½ that the Transit will End later than there I supposed so that it

may very well Be Observed in all the English Colonies  
up On the main

The above is upon the Supposition that the end of  
the Transit here would Be at, the same Instant as it ends  
in London. But it must end sooner in London than in  
5<sup>h</sup> W. Longitude by all the time that Mercury takes To  
pass thro' near  $5/6$  of the Parallactick Angle of the sun.  
which I suppose may be some few minutes still Later and  
from that difference of the time of the end is the sun's  
parallax To be Discovered—I am

Sir

Your humble Servant

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*From Cadwallader Colden to Lord Macclesfield (?)*

[Copy]

COLDENGHAM IN NEW YORK Feb<sup>ry</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 1753

My Lord

When I received the honour of your Letter of the 12<sup>th</sup>  
of August last my thoughts were employed in explaining  
the Phenomena in S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton's Optics by the  
Principles of Action in Matter I chose that subject be-  
cause nothing is so fit to Confirm the Truth of any  
Principles in Physics as that in which the Phenomena  
are observed with the greatest accuracy I had gon so  
far as to have received strong hopes that if any thing  
which your Lordship has seen from me has pleased you  
this when I shall be able to finish it will not lessen any  
favourable opinion that you may have entertained of my  
performances But as soon as I received the Observations  
which you sent me from your Observatory I laid aside all  
other thoughts that I might from them prove the truth  
or discover the error of the Principles which I had as-  
sumed The result of my enquiries I send with this &  
humbly submit it to your Lordships Judgement After  
this I shall turn my thoughts again to optics which I  
hope to finish in a few months



I am very sensible of many defects in what is published on the Principles of Action in Matter & several things have occur'd to my thoughts proper to be added so that if what I have don in any measure please you & that book be thought to deserve a second Edition I hope to make it much more worthy of appearing under your Lordships Patronage. I beg that you'll let me know that this with the papers come safe to your hands It shall be my continual endeavour not to appear unworthy of any friendship you show to

Your lord<sup>ps</sup>

Most obedient

Sent to M<sup>r</sup> ALEXANDER care  
by NOAH ELTINGE Febr<sup>y</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>

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*From Benjamin Franklin*

PHILAD<sup>a</sup> Feb. 28 1753

Dear Sir

I return you herewith Professor Kastner's Remarks. As far as I am able to judge, the Translation is just, and your Answer a good one. I am pleas'd with the Omission of that part of a Paragraph relating to the German & Pensilvanian Electricians, & have corrected the Copy as you direct. I have but one other Alteration to propose which is, to omit some Part of the last Paragraph, and read the rest thus;—"After all, M<sup>r</sup> Colden must think himself obliged to the Professor, for exposing the Difficulties his Treatise lies under in the Opinion of others, as thereby an Opportunity is given of explaining his Doctrine more fully to their Satisfaction." For it seems to me not so proper to make Acknowledgement for his Translating your Piece, as if it were a Favour, when he tells the World he did it by Command: And I apprehend it unnecessary, and that it may look like too great a Fondness for Complement, to draw one from him by Consequence; viz. *That he did not think it a trifling Performance, or he would not have taken the Trouble, &c.* since he himself freely says *that the many new, good and*

*just Thoughts contain'd in it, made him willingly undertake the Task enjoin'd him.* Besides that it is not clear he could have refus'd to obey the Command he received, whatever might have been his private Sentiments. The Ship I intended to forward these papers by to M<sup>r</sup> Collinson, has stay'd much longer than I expected, and now I am told will not sail before the End of next Month, so that I may possibly receive your Directions concerning the propos'd Alteration before she sails.

I find I was not wrong in my Apprehensions that your Book would be incorrectly printed. I hope however, that the Errata will be in England time enough to be published with the Work; and I thank you for sending them to me. I have corrected the Book accordingly, and given it one Reading; but it is not a Piece to make sudden Remarks on, as one might of a Poem or other Performance on common Subjects. I must read and consider it yet more attentively; at present I can only tell you that some Things in it please me exceedingly; some I do not yet clearly understand; and one or two Positions I think wrong; of all which you shall hear more fully in my next. On the whole it gives me great Satisfaction, when I consider it as a Work that will not only improve Philosophy, but do Honour to America.

I am sorry I have not, as you expect, any thing new to communicate to you on the Subject of Electricity. My Time & Thoughts have of late been much engag'd in other Matters. And ever since I heard of your being furnish'd with an Apparatus, I have hoped rather to receive Information of new Discoveries from you, than expected to send you any. If your other philosophical Pursuits do not prevent your Application to the Experiments you propos'd to make on various Salts, &c. I shall still hope it. Your skill & Expertness in Mathematical Computations, will afford you an Advantage in these Disquisitions, that I lament the want of, who am like a Man searching for some thing in a dark Room where I can only grope and guess; while you proceed with a Candle in your Hand.

We are preparing here to make accurate Observations on the approaching Transit of Mercury over the Sun. You will oblige us much by sending the Acc<sup>t</sup> you have received from Lord Macclesfield of his great mural Quadrant. I congratulate you on your Discovery of a new Motion in the Earth's Axis: You will, I see, render your Name immortal.

I believe I have not before told you, that I have procured a Subscription here of 1300 £ to fit out a Vessel in Search of a N West Passage: she sails in a few Days, and is called the Argo commanded by M<sup>r</sup> Twaine, who was in the last Expedition in the California Author of a Journal of that Voyage in two Volumes. We think their Attempt laudable, whatever may be the Success. If he fails, *Magnis tamen excidit ausis*.

With great Esteem, I am, D<sup>r</sup> Sir,  
Your most hum<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldenham  
Free B FRANKLIN

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK March 4<sup>th</sup> 1753

Dear Sir

Yesternight I received yours of feb<sup>ry</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> with Coppy of your Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Chambers inclosed, which I am really Sorry to think may occasion a Difference between you & M<sup>r</sup> Chambers about a thing that I cannot See is of any great Moment. I believe M<sup>r</sup> Chambers was far from any thoughts of Differing with you when he wrote his Letter to you

Garrison Said a month agoe that he would Sail on the 25<sup>th</sup> of february, weather permitting, people here Seldom think of writing till the day given out for the vessel to Sail, for they Seldom Sail in a week after but my wife intending to ship Some money by him sent on



23<sup>d</sup> to tell him of it & to know when he Sailed, & he gave assurances he would Sail on 25<sup>th</sup> by day light if weather would permitt, & it was with much adoe that I got my own & my wifes letters finished by 9 at night of the 24<sup>th</sup>: So that I could not have a Coppy of what you Sent Lord Maclesfield—I carefully Considered that part concerning the procession of the Equinox, and verly believe the 50" a year is not by an Equable motion but is Sometimes faster or slower than at other times from the Causes you assigned, but how much will require time & observations Exactly to ascertain, I hope you may have hit upon the quantitys, these numbers agreeing w<sup>h</sup> my Lords observations seems to me a Sign that you have—I Sealed your Letters to M<sup>r</sup> Collison & my Lord & with Some others put a Cover over directed to Collisons to be Delivered by Garrison at London, & Doubt not he will declare them there himself without charge, the weather did not permitt Garrison to Sail the 25<sup>th</sup> but he Sailed Early on the 26<sup>th</sup> w<sup>h</sup> a fair wind

That you have not heard from me on the Subject of your book the reason is that I have not been able to form a Sufficient judgment of it, and doubt much if I am able, for I find I am not able to think so Clossly upon things as formerly, nor am I able to Continue a Closs reasoning for a Long time, which I Doubt not is occasioned by my age

There are two points in it which I was Dissatisfied with and I believe told you So before you Sent it to England viz that by the projectile & Centrifugal forces if they were not Equal to cause the body to move in a Circle about the Sun, but if the body came within the Circle, it would move to the Sun on a Spiral, or if without the Circle, it would go off in a Spiral, This I think you insist on, but as its Contrary to what S<sup>r</sup> Isaac & the other greatest astronomers have I think Demonstrated, by Showing the Exact proportions between these two forces, that will cause a body to move in an Elipsis, the proportions that will cause it to move in a parabola & hyperbola the proportions that will cause it to move in

Spirals going off from & Spirals going to the sun the numbers of revolutions in the inward & Spirals before it come to the Sun &c Now as they have been So precise in Determining all these things, I cannot Easily alter my notions that I had Conceived of these things from those great mens works

The other point is, that a body may move off from the Sun in a streight Line by force of the rays of the Sun w<sup>t</sup> an Encreasing force and by means of the Different & greater force of the ether on the side furthest than on the Side nearest the Sun acquire a motion perpendicular or inclineing to that Line, This I cannot Conceive tho' before & now I have as well as I could considered what you Say upon it

These two points are the only points that I am not pleased with in it, and I am far mistaken if I Did not give you these my Sentiments before you Sent it to England & heartily wished that you would have altered them; but yet I am far from being so much master of the Subject as to be Sure that you are not right in both points, tho I believe not

I have not received from M<sup>r</sup> Franklin the papers you mention nor has he mentioned anything of them to me

Yesternight I received by the post, some printed Coppies of the Letters concerning the transit of Mercury one of which I Send you herewith

when I come from jersey in the beginning of aprile I think to fitt the quadrant for use, you know its made only for observations on the Meridian, I think of makeing an addition to the bottom of it to fitt it for observations on all azimuths, which I think can be done with no great charge; and without any the Least alteration in the parts now belonging to it

M<sup>r</sup> Franklin writes that he has struck off fifty coppies of the Letters, & by this post Sends same to Jersey & New England & by next Southern post will Send some to Maryland & Virginia all with pressing Letters from himself to provide for observing the transits mentioned

within—I hope your affairs may permitt you to give us your assistance here on May 6<sup>th</sup> next

The Contrivance I propose for the bottom of the Quadrant is this

make two Circles of boards about an inch thick, Diameter about 3 foot a few inches Larger than the present bottom of the quadrant

the Lower Circle to Lye Levell & solid on the floor with an iron pin  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch Diameter & 3 inches Long fixed in its Center—to go into a hole fitted for it in the Center of the upper Circle, for the upper Circle to turn round on that pin

about an inch or two from the Limb of the under Circle, fix three Small Circles at Equal Distance such as are used for the Lines of Sash windows to roll upon, only to be of brass, & not grooved but plain in the Circumference, they are to turn freely each upon an iron pin for their axis & to project about an inch above the Lower Circle

The upper Circle of wood is to rest on these three small Circles, & by the pin thro the hole in its Center can turn Easily round on those Small Circles

by a Screw such as is used for makeing the Telescope of the Quadrant Screwed to the upper & Lower boards if the upper may be made to move slowly & steddily round

make 3 small holes in the upper Circle about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch deep to receive the 3 Screws of the now bottom of the Quadrant; & Set the quadrant upon it

the upper Circle should be strengthened by boards or iron So as not to Segg by the weight of the Quadrant or Else there must be a greater number of the Small Circles—Suppose 6 or 8 or more or instead of the holes in the upper Circle make two holes in 3 barrs of iron  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch thick & so long at Least as the Distance between two of the Small Circles & nail these barrs to the upper Circle

I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JA. ALEXANDER



*From Peter Collinson*

London March 10: 1754

As you my Dear friend Destroye the Common Hypothesis that Water Spouts are Supposed to Draw up Water to the Clouds, pray how comes the Cloud of the Spout to be So Loaded with Water that on a Bullets Breaking its Texture a Deluge Ensues—or what is the natural use of the Water Spout or who has been hardy enough to come its Way, to know wether the Water is Fresh or Salt, & Survive that operation, besides if the Water is Suck'd up, it may be divested of its Saline Quality, in the very Operation,—or how is Water Generated in the clouds—~~th~~haps from Exhalations &c but these Spouts was look'd upon as the principal Conveyancers

I am really obliged to you for the opuntias they came in fine order are a Different Species from the Carolina—for the Leaves are Less & much more Spiney when I open'd the Box amongst the Moss I saw a Leafe of the Saracena as Fresh as if just gathered which made Mee very joyeous, of Seeing the plant as it came so well & bogg can't be farr from you pray Send 2 or 3 Roots with the bogg Earth to them & pack them up in Moss and they will come I see In some Order & it is a very wonderfull plant

I can give my Dear Friend no Satisfactory account from Lord Macklesfield In short he is So Embarresed in his Sons Election that all that is writt or Said to Him is to no manner of purpose all is forgot papers—mislaide & Lost So no good can be expected from Him untill our affairs are Setled & when that will be God only knows, for Wee are on a Sudden So unhinged by the Death of M<sup>r</sup> Pelham who had been Ill with St Antho<sup>s</sup> fire but was well and attended the House as Usual, on Fryday the 1<sup>st</sup> Instant the Weather being fine He walked in the park an Hour or More Went to Col Pelhams Eat plentyfull of

oysters & beef stakes, but after Dinner was seized with a Cold Fitt—went Home in the Night another Cold Fitt & then a Fever Carried him off Wednesday morning 6 March to the Inexpressable Loss of his King & Country—for as affairs was setld in a Regular channel our good King was in hopes to have Slid on Easily to his Period—Butt now all is Confusion the approaching Election comeing on no body knows who & who is together the late Minister only knew This—There is none left like Him Equal to the Task—the Choice of the parliament is the Great Article to be consider'd by the administration & who will be able to conduct this, is now the Great Consideration—Here is a King grown old & a young prince—& the Chain broke that would have united all together to be Sure the Death of M<sup>r</sup> Pelham could not have happen'd at a more Critical juncture & in appearance in the very worst time it could have happened, but it may please good providence to bring Good out of Evil there is many Candidates, but M<sup>r</sup> Fox, Brother to Lord Ilchester stands fairest, he is a Man of great abilities but there is a faction against Him, sometimes might over power right

Your Letter was carefully Deliver'd to Lord Halifax & Just as this Sad affair happen'd, I was going to Him to know his Sentiments—but now all is in Confusion & Uncertainty no one knows what revolutions may happen—a New Minister has his friends to oblige that Stood by Him—so his Lordships Situation may be precarious—so you can expect to hear nothing on your affair—untill as I said before a Minister is Chosen & all the officers confirm'd in their offices

as to your principles I do not find they are Espoused by any one. this I tell you without reference as you desired—how farr New Illustrations may recommend them I cannot Saye

Your answer to pro: Euler is not yett publis'd for after it was read before the Royal Society a Gent<sup>n</sup> Desired Leave that He Might have It to consider it—and he has not yett made his report but as Soone as I gett it

from Him, I shall not fail to have it putt in the Gen<sup>n</sup> Magazine if Bryant is not gone I will Send you the Two Coppies you Desire, but I have So much Business at this Time of the Ships going away—that you'l Excuse mee, if it is delay'd till the next oppertunity. Govern<sup>r</sup> Clinton is retreated to Bath—He must be uneasie at this accident there is none now to Screen Him—I should not Care to be in his Shoes, for he has here a very bad name for his arbitrary proceedings at New York—but you know best how that is, you'l excuse the incorrectness & hoggishness of this Letter which has been undertaken as at Several Essays—I am my Dear fr<sup>d</sup> Truly

Y<sup>rs</sup> P COLLINSON

this answers yours of 10<sup>br</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup>

I have sent 2 books <sup>to</sup> Mr. Welk Directed to be left with M<sup>r</sup> Alexander

Professor Kalm is publishing his Travels & observations on his American Expedition—in Swedish—but Wee hope to See it translated into Some more Intelligible language our Fr<sup>d</sup> Franklin has the Gold Medal for his new Discoveries in Electricity

M<sup>r</sup> Smith who you may have heard of for his Mariana comes over to be Rector to the Acad: at Philadelphia mett with great Encouragement from M<sup>r</sup> Penn.

[Indorsed]

P. COLLINSON

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
New York

*From Cadwallader Colden to Lord Macclesfield (?)*

[Copy]

My Lord

COLDENHAM April 2<sup>d</sup> 1753

I must beg your Pardon for giving your L<sup>d</sup>ship the trouble of this being to correct an error in my last of the 16<sup>th</sup> of February in which I had by mistake taken the uncorrected observations in place of the corrected I now inclose a correction of those errors by which you will perceive that the errors no way affect what I had prin-



cipally in view to prove corrections the variations in the motion of the Equinoxes in the course of one year they rather confirm it But I have learned from it that the French table of Refractions do not agree with the Phenomena whereas Sr Isaac Newton's do This is a point I should not have been so fully satisfied in if I had not fallen into that mistake The only alteration of consequence in what I formerly sent is that I now make the Latitude of Sherburn Castle the same your Lord<sup>p</sup> does viz  $51^{\circ} 39' 25''$  And the Ecliptic at the Summer Solstice  $28^{\circ} 28' 30''$  or perhaps it may be a little more I discover no necessity of makeing any other correction to what I formerly sent than what is inclosed Notwithstanding of what I formerly wrote of my inclination to have my thoughts on this head published because I think the Principles of Action in Matter thereby much confirmed & as it may excite Astronomers to a more accurate observation of the position of the Axis of the Earth in several parts of its orbit it is absolutely submitted to your Judgment by

March 28<sup>th</sup> 1753

Postscript to the letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>ry</sup> on the Motion of the Equinoxes

I am fully sensible that the numbers in the table of the Motion of the Equinoxes may require much correction; but as I am of opinion that this cannot be so well don by observations of the Sun, as by a continued Series of Observations of the fixed stars, near the Pole of the Equator, I think this table, tho' perhaps erroneous, may be of use in considering the apparent motion of the fixed stars, in consequence of every alteration in the position of the Earth's axis. It is like wise proper to observe, that, from the Principles of Action in Matter, & as well as from the observations of the Sun made at Sherburn Castle in the year 1749, it seems evident, that the axis of the Earth makes a less angle with the axis of the Ecliptic at the Winter Solstice, than at the Summer Solstice by a difference of some seconds, & that probably the obliquity of the Ecliptic increases in some certain

ratio from the Winter Solstice to the Summer: there is however no notice taken of this change of the obliquity in the Calculations subjoined: because sufficient observations were not obtained, for determining it; but, it is hoped, they may be obtained by observations of the circumpolar stars, especially if those near the pole, where the certainty of the observations cannot be so much affected by the Refractions, as they are at greater distances from the Zenith.

Latitude of Sherburn Castle    51° 39' 25"

Obliquity of the Ecliptic        23   28   30

The Table of Refractions to be entirely omitted

*From Peter Collinson*

My Dear S<sup>r</sup>

LOND April 5<sup>th</sup> 1753

the Duties of friendship obliges Mee to Putt penn to paper Else I should gladly be Excused under my present afflicted Situation for the Loss of the best of Wives—the mention of whose Dear name pierces my Very Soul tomorrow I pay the Last office

Your Letter is delivered to Lord Maclefield—but I have been so confind that I have not Seen Him for Some Time

Your Letters & the Governors have been carefully Delivered to L<sup>d</sup> Halifax as I can learn they have projects under hand that all officers Salaries are to be paid by the Colonies

Governor Thomas Lake of Pensilvania is appointed Governor Leeward Islands He has a good Character—your Trees come in good order I cannot add further but that I am your Sincere but Sorrowfull F<sup>r</sup>

P COLLINSON

I hear y<sup>r</sup> Brother is Dead

I hear of no Governor yett named for y<sup>r</sup> Colony

[Indorsed]

For CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
New York

*From Benjamin Franklin*

PHILAD<sup>A</sup> April 12. 1753

Dear Sir:

"I received your Fav<sup>r</sup> of March 20, and a subsequent one without Date, containing the Description of Ld Macclesfield's Mural Quadrant. No Vessel has sail'd home for England these three Months, but one goes next Week by which I shall send your Answer to the German Professor corrected as your direct

I see it is not without Reluctance that the Europeans will allow that they can possibly receive any Instruction from us Americans. Kanster opposes your Principles, & Nollet mine. He has lately wrote and published 6 Long Letters, directed to me, on the Subject of my Pamphlet, in which he imagines he has taken me all to pieces. I have read and consider'd them, and remain of the same Sentiments. In one or two Places he seems to apply to the superstitious Prejudices of the Populace, which I think unworthy of a Philosopher. He speaks as if he thought it Presumption in man to propose guarding himself against the *Thunders of Heaven!* Surely the Thunder of Heaven is no more supernatural than the Rain, Hail, or Sunshine of Heaven, against the Inconveniences of which we guard by Roofs & Shades without Scruple

But I can now ease the Gentleman of this Apprehension; for by some late Experiments I find, that it is not Lightning from the Clouds that strikes the Earth, but Lightning from the Earth that strikes the Clouds. They are electrified negatively & the Earth positively. This will seem a surprizing Position to you & to all Mankind; It will, when demonstrated, make a great Alteration in our *Theory*; But as to the Methods propos'd for *Practice*, to guard against the Mischiefs of Lightning, they remain the same. You are the first I communicate this to, not only as a Mark of my Respect, but that you may consider if it has any Relation to your Principles. I only request that you would not divulge it at present.



It is expected that I should answer Mons. Nollett. You see, this must at present engage the little Leisure my other Affairs afford me, and oblige me to defer explaining my self at large on the Objections I have to your Book. I must own, too, that I am under some Apprehensions of sinking in your Esteem by it, unless I could well support those Objections; and I am diffident of my self, knowing my Deficiency in Mathematical Knowledge, & in such Reasoning as must in some Degree depend upon it. I will confide however in your Candor, and tell you, that I cannot, after long considering the Point, persuade my self that there is in Matter any such Principle as is imagined under the Term *Vis Inertiæ*. I even conceit that the contrary may be demonstrated, i.e. that Matter gives no Resistance to Motion. But in this, all the World is against me, & with you; so that I have reason to be diffident, and slow. If I do not admit the Principle, I must think all you have said to explain it, wrong. After this Acknowledgement, I think you will be in no pain about my Objections if you were before. But if you will send me another Copy of your Book (for I cannot spare this) I will communicate it to a Person of Worth & Candour, and of a very philosophic Genius, to whom these abstract Researches are more familiar and more engaging than to me, and who will be, I think, such a Correspondent as you desire. He lives near Boston, and therefore to save Postage to you both, let me be the Medium of your literary Commerce. I may then with your Permission have an Opportunity of seeing what passes between you, and perhaps assisting now and then with occasional Remarks. I think it behooves us all to join Hands for the Honour of the American Philosophy. The Gentleman is Mr. James Bowdoin, who with a great Fortune has a most amiable Character.

I thank you for the Transcript of L<sup>d</sup> Macclesfield's Letter, & for the Hints concerning our Observation of the Transit. I wish we may have fair Weather, for I think nothing else will now be wanting.

I send you some Ears of Barley from Barbary, which

our common Friend M<sup>r</sup> Collinson sent me. It is said to be of an extraordinary Kind for Goodness; perhaps it may suit our Climate, if the Seed can be sav'd, to which End M<sup>r</sup> Collinson advises sowing it in a Garden at first, where Care may be taken of [it.]

I sent you last Post, a Catalogue of [torn] about your Place with a Letter from Linneus, [wh] I hope got safe to hand. The late Magazines (London & Gentleman's) for several Months, have Extracts from or Summaries of particular Parts of your Book, and promise a Continuance; by which I see it will make a great Noise. You will scarce allow me to congratulate you on these Occasions, reserving to yourself an exclusive Privilege of complimenting your Friends, in which I think you are a little arbitrary.

With sincere Esteem and Respect, I am,

D<sup>r</sup> Sir,

Your obliged hum<sup>b</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B. FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldenham

Free BF.

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK Aprile 19 1753

Dear Sir

Yesternight I had the favour of yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> by your Son—I am glad that the papers concerning Lott No 19 came so luckily to your hands before your Son was gone for Albany, and hope he may be able to rectify the matter whether Arent Skinners assist or not I am in hopes he will assist, as my last to althoug on that head wherof he has got Coppy contained some broad hints of a Suit ag<sup>t</sup> him for parting with M<sup>r</sup> Browns money to the Indians not pursuant to his agreement

I am glad to See your agreement for Mullinders was writ but concerned to See those two mistakes on the

patent, they are Such as I cannot advise Mr Brown to Convey till we get them amended on the record to do which my present thoughts are that they may be appended by the Survey, upon your Certifying how that is, when which you Send me I will in Mr Browns name petition the Gov<sup>r</sup> & Council to have those two mistakes in the record amended

I can show precedents of amendments of fines & recoveries of all manner of records of Courts in England many years after the Errors were Committed, when any one preceeding Step was right by which the Succeeding could be amended—If we get them so amended then we must take an Exemplification of the record under the Great Seal to Deliver to the buyers in place of the patent

If we can't obtain an amendment that way, I see no remedy but a new Grant which would be too Expensive

I yesternight acquainted your son with what I knew of Mr Attorney Kemp's proceedings for the Duke of Chandois & Company, & to him I must referr you—I suspect some other in this province is Either interested as you think, or at Least advises the proceedings out of ill will to us

You may be right in your opinion as to orthodoxy & heresee in Philosophy as well as in religion, the case you put I think I apprehend but See no Difficulty in the question you put—the answer is *the Different Directions of the motion of the planet at those Different points*

I am Sorry to See that our Country has almost got a Sleep and regardless of the improvement of knowledge, while other nations are makeing good efforts towards it, what you mention is a flagrant instance, and the Royal Society's former ill treatment of Linneus, well Exposed in Some late papers (I think the review) is Still a Stronger instance of it—the Royal Society's directions for observing the transit of Mercury—which Mr franklin I suppose had directly from them & printed in his news paper as theirs, verbatim with what I Sent you from Collison, Compared with the french directions, is another instance of their being asleep else they would never have



directed us to Observe the beginning & Duration of that transit

Theophilus Grew I hear is professor of the Mathematicks in the Academy of Philadelphia

herewith I send you Halleys tables & the idea of the Colledge of Mirania a thing that I think is Extremely well wrote—I am in haste

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To The Honourable  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldingham

*From Alice Colden to Mrs. Cadwallader Colden*

COLDENGHAM April 25 1753

Hon<sup>d</sup> Mad<sup>m</sup>

No doubt but you will be surpris'd at seeing a letter directed by me, for the old Gentleman, I leave both his and mine open for your perusal, I should have been glad Mad<sup>m</sup> to have had your advice in the manner of putting a stop to any farther proceedings of his, but am freed from any apprehension of your disapproving of the method I have taken as it is with Papas approbation I think his letter is wrote in an odd manner, and I suppose will cause some laugh between you and Sister De Lancey, I shou'd be glad that no others see it, and desire you will please to close mine, and let it be sent to him in what ever manner you think most proper.

We lay our account that you have this day had a happy meeting with my Sister the contrary wind that we have had makes us fear you have had an unpleasant Passage but make no doubt but you will have as great satisfaction in being with my Sister that it will cause you to forget any difficulty you may have had in geting to

her I hope D<sup>r</sup> Mad<sup>m</sup> nothing may happen to make you uneasy while you are from us I shou'd be much out in my duty to an indulgent Mother did I not as far as I am capable endeavour to supply your place at home in taking all the care I can that nothing may suffer by your absence

Permit me my Dear Mama to take this opportunity of returning you my most gratefull thanks for the civil manner in which you was pleasd to receive and intertain M<sup>r</sup> Bartow as I am persuaded it proceeded from your tenderness and affection to me it has made a strong impression on my mind and hope nither you or Papa may ever have reason to repent your great indulgence to me in this affair Please to offer my tenderest affections to my Sisters and B<sup>rs</sup> and all the children. I shall write to Caty by next opportunity

I am Hon<sup>d</sup> Madam

Your Most Dutifull & Ever Obedient Daughter

ALICE COLDEN

My Dear

As both your Daughters write to you I can have little to add tho' the letter inclosed in this be in a very odd stile & may with some folks occasion mirth yet I would by no means give any occasion for it on our part as I believe the man meant well & therefore let none see it but Betty She will show you mine to her & then you will learn all we can tell you I wish you all much pleasure together till you have a desire to return to Your affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

Mrs COLDEN

att

West-Chester

April 25 1753

from M<sup>r</sup> COLDEN

JANE & ALY

*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK May 10<sup>th</sup> 1753

Dear Sir

I had this day the favour of yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> the clouds debarred us here of the Light of the transit of Mercury though we were pretty well prepared for the observation

John Dyre undertook to use the reflecting Telescope which had a good Smoakt glass which could clearly show the spots in the Suns face, & did show them well on the day before the transit, he was watching when the Clouds first permitted the Sun to be visible and when he Saw the Spots Seen the day before & tho he narrowly viewed that part where Mercury should have been seen could have no Sight of it, and it being then about Six I believe the transit was over

Mr Dyre's Contrivance for moveing the quadrant round, answers beyond Expectation, for the new Pedestal being Levelled, and the quadrant Set upon it & rectified & Levelled by the Silver threed plummet & Levell, by even turning the upper part of the pedestal round with the hand, & the three viewed with the microscope, it kept to the points, & the Levell Continued the Same, but the Screw to move the upper part of the pedestal round, makes it move perfectly steddly & even & makes no alteration in the threed and plummet & Levell—the Silver threed is so fine that the weight of the plummet breaks it unless its immersed in water, & the points you may remember are So Small as not to be visible without the Microscope—the Screw is about 16 inches & can move the quadrant about 15 inches round without placing it anew.

about 7 in the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> my Son took three altitudes of the Sun to regulate the Clock, I intend to Calculate the Suns place by your tables & by Halleys & by that See how they agree

Inclosed I send you Coppy of mine to you of April 19<sup>th</sup> so far as concerned Mr Browns affairs because you



mention it not in yours, and am afraid that that [or] your answer to it have miscarried

I Just now rec<sup>d</sup> a Letter from James Stevenson incloseing one to him from Arent Stevens of which I Send you a Coppy. hoping the matter is as he Says I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

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*From the Earl of Halifax*

GROSVENOR SQUARE May 17<sup>th</sup> 1753

Sir

It is very unnecessary for me to take notice of every particular contained in the Letter you favored me with dated the 10<sup>th</sup> of August last, as the far greatest part of it took its' rise from an ill-founded supposition of your standing ill in the opinion of His Majesty's Servants because M<sup>r</sup> Clinton was not suffered to quit his government, nor you, as Eldest Councillor, to succeed to the administration of it. I shall say very little on this head, but since you have exprest yourself as if you thought Injustice had been done to you, I will briefly endeavour to undeceive you, lest by continuing to entertain so false an opinion you should really do an injustice to others and create unnecessary trouble and uneasiness to yourself. You are pleas'd to suppose that the orders given for M<sup>r</sup> Clinton's not making use of his Leave of Absence took that Rise, from a disapprobation of your Character. But how you are authorized to give them such a Construction I am at a loss to conceive: You speak indeed of your succeeding M<sup>r</sup> Clinton in the administration as a thing that, had M<sup>r</sup> Clinton return'd home, would have happen'd to you of course as Eldest Councillor, by which I imagine you never have heard, or have entirely forgot that M<sup>r</sup> Clinton is possess'd of a Commission from His Majesty appointing M<sup>r</sup> Delancy Lieutenant Gov-

error: This Commission upon Mr Clinton's leaving his Government w<sup>d</sup> necessarily have taken place, unless he had taken the very measure which I understand he intended to take of suspending Mr Delancey from his Seat in Council. It was thought that a step of this sort would create discord and dissention, and therefore it was judged impolitic and unsafe to suffer it to be taken. This having been the state of the case, I think I need not say any thing farther to convince you that no sort of Injustice has been done you, and that your Character is by no means affected by the disappointment.

In answer to the other part of your Letter which relates to your request that His Majesty would be pleased to allow you a Salary, as Surveyor General of the Lands in the Province of New York to be paid out of the Quit Rents, I am to acquaint you, that as it is an affair relative to the revenue, I thought proper to lay it before Mr Pelham to whose Department it belongs. As I am sensible of your services, so should I have been glad to have obtained from Mr Pelham the desired reward of them; but you will observe that by the present state of Receipt of His Majesty's Quit Rents, as given by Mr Walpole Auditor of His Majesty's Plantations (a Copy of which I shall enclose) that the thing proposed is impracticable, at least impracticable with any advantage to you, as the Salaries of the present Establishment exceed the Income arising from the Receipt of the Quit-Rents.

I am very sensible of your Abilities, and the part you have acted in support of his Majesty's Rights, when it has been made a point to maintain and preserve them; but as the affairs of the Government of New York have long been in a state of disorder and distraction before I was in a Situation to apply any remedy to them, I must be excused entering unnecessarily into so disagreeable a Detail, and recapitulating the variety of Incidents that occurred, and variety of measures pursued thro' the Course of such unhappy Divisions.

This However it might now become my indispensable

duty to do, but that his Majesty has render'd it needless by having named S<sup>r</sup> Danvers Osborn as a successor to M<sup>r</sup> Clinton in his Government, and I hope he will be in readiness to set sail for New York in about six or seven weeks time at latest; so that M<sup>r</sup> Clinton may return home before the winter season, which on account of his state of Health, both he and his Friends apprehend may prove of dangerous consequence to him.

The same Zeal and Loyalty which you have hitherto shewn in the support of His Majesty's Rights, I flatter myself you will continue to exert; and I hope that all such as have a true regard to the happiness of the Province will unite in their Endeavours to support its Constitution which may as effectually be destroyed by unjust attacks on the Prerogative of the Crown on the one Hand, as on the Rights and Liberties of the People on the other. My earnest wish is that even the Remembrance of former animosities may no longer remain, and that the only Contention for the future may be who shall most effectually promote the welfare Peace and Tranquillity of the Province.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Humble Servant

DUNK HALIFAX

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esquire

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*From Peter Collinson*

LOND June 2 1753

I hope my Dear Friend has mine of Aprill 10<sup>th</sup> ③  
Cap<sup>t</sup> Bryant—and I have little new to add So many  
Gover<sup>s</sup> are appointed by our publick papers that I cannot  
rely on anything they say—But Lord Lincoln or  
your Gover<sup>s</sup> Agent Here may Informe Him who is to be  
the Man

Lord Macclesfeild Seem'd pleased with your Last



papers & return'd them to Mee to Send to Dodswell to printed by way of Supplem<sup>t</sup> Its likely his Lordship would have writt to you but His Family is full of Incumbrances haveing married His Son & Buried his Lady just together

Att your leisure forget not your kind Intentions to Informe Doc<sup>r</sup> Fothergill what you have learned of the Sore throat with you

I am mightily please with the growing of the young plants of the prickly ash or Tooth Ach Bush you sent mee as you have So accurately given its Characters it proves the *Zanthoxylum* of Catesbys Nat. Hist—but the face of the plants you sent Mee is remarkably Different from those that grow in Carolina & Virginia—Your plant was undoubtedly a Male, for it bears Seeds plentyfully P: Millers Character is—the Empalement of the flower is of one leafe divided into five parts at the Top: the flower is composed of Five Petals, haveing a pointal in the Center, which is attended by five stamina the pointal afterwards becomes a roundish compressed Fruit divided into 4 Cells, Each of which is one roundish hard Shineing Seed.

It is pretty remarkable that Linnæus does not mention the characters of the *Zanthoxylum* in any of his Works. I intend to Send your Characters to Him—pray how is the bark of your Old Tree—to the Southward they are full of protuberances Like the Hercules Club

I am my Dear Friend

Truly Yours

P COLLINSON

Wee hope to be favour'd with your observations on the Transit of Mercury

If what the Gazett Says must be True then you have S<sup>r</sup> Danvers Osborn appointed y<sup>r</sup> Governor a <sup>son</sup> I never heard of before

[Indorsed]

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
In New York

*From Peter Collinson*

June 10. 1753

I wish I could tell my Dear Friend any News worth his hearing

Your Memorial & Letter I had by my Good Fr Mr Hill Secretary to the Board of Trade delivered into Lord Halifaxs own Hands—but what will be done in it cannot Saye for I have not the least Acquaintance with his Lordship—But Doc<sup>r</sup> Mitchell is Intimate with Him & I have acquainted Him with your Request & he has assured Mee He will do his best to Serve you He gives his Service & wonders he has not a Line from you I am in hast much  
Y<sup>r</sup>

P COLLINSON

Your Worthy Governors Letter was also Deliverd

[Indorsed]

For CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
These

*From William Shewington*

ANTIGUA 20 June 1753

Sir

Mr Benjamin Mecom haveing Rec<sup>d</sup> half a Dozen Circulatory Letters from You Relating To Mercury's Transit Oer the Sun the 6 of Last May he put them into my hands, One Would have Sufficed for our Island as we are not overburthened With men who have a Taste that way Hereunder I send you the Result of My Observation thereof

Sunday May 6 at 6—07'—31" I observ'd the Western Limb of Mercury To touch the Western Limb of the sun And at 6. 10'.37" He Touched the same with the Eastern Limb and Totally disappeared Lat. of the place 17° 00' N. — Long. By Estimation 61° 45' W. from London

This was taken by a Grahams Watch and Corrected

by Two Altitudes taken By a most Exquisite Quadrant  
Viz<sup>t</sup>

At 6<sup>h</sup> 58' 07" I observed the distance of the sun upper  
Limb from the Zenith—72° 21' 30" and at 9.<sup>h</sup> 31' 05" I  
observed the same—36° 17' 0"

By the Common process (which You may have if  
Necessary) I found the Watch was 0° 04' 04" 28" Too  
fast therefore

From	.....	6..	10'	37"	
Take	.....	0..	04	04	28

True Apparent Time of	6..	6'	32"	32'''
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Pray Impart Your Observation To

Your Well Wisher

WILLIAM SHEWINGTON

Mr King haveing acquainted the Publick that A Transit  
of Mercury was expected the 6 of this Month he thinks  
it Incumbent on him to give an account of the observa-  
tions made upon that Phenomenon at the Observatory in  
Dukes Court near the Mewes the Sky being Clear and  
the sun being Visible at the Observatory soon after five  
in the morning he found the planet according to the Best  
of his Judgment something farther advanced On the  
suns Disk than Mons: D'Lisles' Calculation had made it  
and haveing frequent Opportunities of observing it Dure-  
ing it's Transit and it Being Very Clear Towards the  
end he Observed the Central Egress of the planet To be  
at Six minutes fifty three seconds after Ten and the End  
of the Transit at seven minutes thirty seconds after ten  
the above observations were accounted for by apparent  
Time. Mr Grignion who observed with him haveing  
Set a Curious Second Watch for that purpose by his  
Transit Instrument the disk of the sun was observed  
thro' a very good Gregorian Reflecting Telescope Brought  
By Mr Howell Optician near Essex Street in the Strand  
and a Large Newtonian Reflector presented to this ob-  
servatory some time Since by a Lady



*From Cadwallader Colden to Peter Collinson*  
[Copy]

COLDENHAM July 7<sup>th</sup> 1753

Dear S<sup>r</sup>

Your favour of the 5<sup>th</sup> of April shews of your friendship to such a degree which nothing but the like circumstances in which yours was wrote can manifest I am loth to inlarge in my acknowledgements least it should renew the pain you was under while you wrote to me I heartily condole with you at the same time

I received Professor Euler's remarks for which I am much obliged to you & inclose an answer to them. As I believe that several others may fall into the same mistakes of the Principle which I endeavour to establish which may give a prejudice to them I am desirous that both the Remarks and answers be published

You have I expect received from M<sup>r</sup> Franklin an answer to the objections which Professor Kastner made to the *first causes of Action in Matter* if M<sup>r</sup> Dodsley will print them This may be properly added to the other But if M<sup>r</sup> Dodsley decline printing of that or any more on this Subject as I have reason to suspect from his not writing to me I would gladly have this last published tho the other should not be because M<sup>r</sup> Eulers objections are such as probably may occur to them whose opinion I value most from a supposition that my Principles are contradictory to what S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton has demonstrated which by the answer will appear to be otherwise

If M<sup>r</sup> Dodsley decline Perhaps M<sup>r</sup> Cave may give Professor Eulers remarks & the answer a place in his Journal If I know my self it is not so much with regard to my own reputation as from a full persuasion of the great use of the Principles which I have adopted in every part of Natural Philosophy that I am desirous to have prejudices against them removed I am prepared to give some other instances of their use in some other

parts of natural Philosophy if I be not discouraged of which I made mention in a letter to my L<sup>d</sup> Macclesfield.

As Professor Euler's Remarks I suppose have not been published perhaps you may not think it proper to put his name to the printed copy In that case It may be left out You may likewise think there is some degree of lastness in the Answer but if his manner of makeing his objections be considered the manner of answering I believe will not be thought improper

I wrote early this spring to L<sup>d</sup> Macclesfield which I did not inclose in yours because I could not at that time be assured of my letters being delivered to you free of Postage as I expected they would be to him by his being a Lord of Parliament. He was pleased to tell me that he would read my book with attention I am therefor exceedingly desirous to know his Lord<sup>ps</sup> opinion of it for by it my own will be very much determined especially after he has seen the answer to Professor Eulers objections there is a distinction to be made in order to take off that seeming contradiction to what S<sup>r</sup> Isaac has demonstrated which I own is not sufficiently clear in the book & which makes the publication of the answer the more necessary

If M<sup>r</sup> Cave print it in his Journal he may give you some copies of the sheet on which it is printed to send to your friends

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*From Samuel Pike*

July 10. 1753

S<sup>r</sup>

I cannot but look on my self as greatly obliged to you, for your philosophical treatise, & have therefore acknowledged the obligation in the most public manner, by mentioning it in that sacred & philosophical treatise I now send you. It was (as near as I can recollect) about 10 years agoe, when your first thoughts concern-

ing the principles of motion in matter came into my hands: the reading & considering of which was the first occasion of & laid the first foundation for those enquiries into nature & scripture which I have now ventured into the light. I very well remember, that at that time, your pamphlet made it appear to me, that an universal elasticity in constant agitation would produce a gravitation towards a resisting body placed in such a medium. This Idea of elasticity set my thoughts to work with great application to account for such an elasticity, which you seem unable to account for & are obliged only to take for granted. Your piece which was only lent me & soon restored to the owner, left such traces upon my mind as would not permit me, as a philosopher, to be at rest till I could account for such principles of elasticity & self motion as you describe; because I saw that such principles would give an intelligible account of natural causes, provided the principles themselves could be intelligibly accounted for. However after my thoughts had worked for a considerable time, I was directed to guess, that a constant motion of the smallest particles of matter to & from each visible point in every direction would account for such an elasticity: & I imagin'd that I could prove by ocular demonstration that there is such an universal commotion in nature; because I observ'd that there was in fact in the open firmament such a constant motion of particles of light as could render objects visible to each eye all around. Thus far I proceeded of my self & guessing that possibly the scripture-word *Firmament* or *expansion* might mean the same thing with this elasticity I studied my Bible upon the head. & by a laborious search found how to account for this elasticity & commotion in a regular mechanical way. I had indeed taken occasion to read over the Works of M<sup>r</sup> John Hutchinson, who, as well as I, search'd revelation for an account of nature: but what he has written, tho' it be in reallity very near the truth did not convey either the Idea or the evidence to my mind with any positive clearness or satisfaction. By the time I had collected & composed the



scheme of Scripture Philosophy I had almost lost every Idea of the manner in which you proved that an elasticity would produce a Gravitation: & I never expected to see your treatise again: when just having transcribed for the press what I had collected from scripture, your treatise revised & enlarged came into my hands: and 'tis this has occasion'd my free remarks upon it. Please therefore, kind friend, to read over what I now send you with attention, before you peruse the remarks in the appendix, & I am in great hope that you may see how your principles are confirm'd clear'd & explain'd in Revelation: & possibly you will by this means find your self clear'd from those mysterious properties you give to matter. Upon this plan, you will find your self under no necessity to suppose different parts of matter to be in themselves possessed of different properties. You will not be under any temptation to believe the eternity of matter; nor under any obligation to suppose that any matter is penetrable, or resisting or elastic or moving in its own nature: but that all matter is of the same nature, only different in shape & size, & that it is in itself a dead motionless thing. And altho' you should give up all such inexplicable properties, you would upon the scripture plan find all those properties mechanically produced, which you very ingeniously & in some respects very happily & justly supposed, but could not distinctly & mechanically explain. 'Tis with real respect & gratitude I now write to you, & 'tis with the same spirit I have ventur'd to mention your name & your Works in this philosophical Treatise I now transmit to you. And it must certainly be a great pleasure to you, when you find that your philosophical speculations have really approached nearer to the truth of Revelation, than any former enquiries. You have Sr of your self come nearer to the divine standard, than any other ever did, who never looked into the sacred oracles for information in this point. And as you have been so eminently serviceable to me, by clearing my way & by leading me so far to the truth, I cannot but

think myself under special obligations to do what I can for the farther satisfaction of your mind &c for the clearing up & explaining those things which you have been obliged to leave unexplained. If this treatise be a means of adding to your pleasure, of increasing your satisfaction & of raising in your mind a higher esteem for the scriptures of truth, it will answer the end of

Your humble obliged Serv<sup>t</sup>

SAM'L PIKE

A few lines from you the first opportunity, directed to me in Hoxlon Square near London will be very acceptable.  
[Indorsed]

To  
M<sup>r</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN  
To be left at the Rev<sup>d</sup>. M<sup>r</sup> CUMMINS  
in New York.

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK July 11 1753

Dear Sir,

Haveing by Last Post Rec<sup>d</sup> the Petition for a new patent In place of Mullenders from M<sup>r</sup> Brown Signed by him in order to prepare for presenting it To his Excellency and Councill. I yesterday Stated the Quit rents due and paid them to the Deputy receiver and this day made Brief of M<sup>r</sup> Browns Title to Lay with the papers Before the Councill to Support the Petition, by which to my great Surprize, I found the will of Governour Burnett before his purchase of Mullenders, whereon I entered my thoughts On that matter in M<sup>r</sup> Browns Minutes whereof before is Coppy

I am at a Very great loss what To do in this matter and fear the Bargain You have made for this Lott Cannot Be Complied with on M<sup>r</sup> Browns part, for had this Not Been discovered now it might have Come To light hereafter, and had M<sup>r</sup> Brown obtained a New patent upon his Surrender of the first—that new patent might at any Time have Been adjudged Void for want of the

Consideration Viz—the Surrender of the Patent. To Mullender, which he had no Right in Law To make so that I think it's happy that the matter is discovered before we have Gone to More Charge about it, I beg Your thoughts & Opinion on this head, that I may Communicate Yours and Mine to Mr Brown for his thoughts & opinion  
I am

Dear Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JA. ALEXANDER

To the hon<sup>b</sup> CADWALLADER  
COLDEN Esq

July 10<sup>th</sup> 1753

Made Brief of William Browns Title To Mullenders Lott. In order To Lay with the Several Papers before the Council on their Considering the Petition of W<sup>m</sup> Brown for a New Patent and was Concerned to perceive a New difficulty in that matter which is this. Governour Burnets Will is Dated December 1727 and the Lease and Release from Mullender to him and Dated April 19 and 20 1748. Now theres not a more Established point of Law that I know of than that Lands purchased after a will shall not pass by it even tho' the Testator should declare it was his Intention that all the lands to be purchased after Should pass by it. Now the Testators Intention is Expressed that all his Estate in America Should go to his Children by his Second wife and no part of it To his son Gilbert But Certain plate that Come from Princess Sophia for that he was well provided for by his Estate in England and Holland But Notwithstanding that plain declaration of the Testators Intent I conceived the point of Law is Clear in favour of Gilbert the Eldest son and heir Now had Mullenders Patent Been right and M<sup>r</sup> Brown sold the land I take it that Gilbert Could have recovered it in an Ejectment without any question or Hesitation. Now should I present the Petition and the Council make the same discovery it will Become their Duty to say that Mullenders patent past not by that will for reason Before



and therefore M<sup>r</sup> Brown has not Showen title to it. But Should they not discover it yet as I must sit in Councill upon the petition can I Consistent with my duty & Oath of Councillor agree to grant it to one who has not the title and Could I avoid sitting in Councill Could I Escape the Censure of fraud in suffering the Council to act wrong for want of Information that I Could give them. I am greatly at a stand what To do or advise in this Matter the Intention of the Testator I think is Clear in favour of M<sup>r</sup> Brown But the point of Law is Clear In favour of Gilbert

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK July 30<sup>th</sup> 1753

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Some weeks agoe I wrote to you on a Discovery then made that the purchase of Mullenders trust was posterior to Gov<sup>r</sup> Burnets will and desireing your Sentiments on the matter to which I had no answer

On Saturday last we had a Council at Jamaica. Chiefly on the affair of the Massachusetts Encroachments—and particularly concerning a riot lately Committed in the manner of Livingston about 14 mile from Hudsons river, where a number of men above a Dozen w<sup>t</sup> Massachusetts officers came and Seized one of Livingstons tenants & his Son & bound them & carried them away by force towards some Gaol of Massachusetts, the names of three or four were Discovered—his Ex<sup>y</sup> & Council issued a proclamation to the Countys of Albany & Dutchess to apprehend the persons named & all others concerned, when Discovered, and his Ex<sup>y</sup> by advice of Council wrote to Gov<sup>r</sup> Phips with a Coppy of the Proclamation & Demanding and insisting on the apprehending the Massachusetts officers & all Concerned in the Said riot and Sending them to this province for their tryals

The Same Day his Ex<sup>y</sup> by advice of Council appointed

Mr Horsmanden third judge of the Supream Court during good behaviour

the same day his Ex<sup>y</sup> took me aside & told me he had a Letter from Lord Halifax concerning the application for a Salary for your office that Horace Walpole opposed it alledging that the Quit rents were not Sufficient to admitt of any Salary out of them. & that the fees of the office were Suff<sup>t</sup> without a Salary &c. his Ex<sup>y</sup> Desired me to acquaint you of this, and to request you to state your answers to those objections before he goes which he thinks will be the beginning of October next—and Desired me to assure you that he would use his utmost endeavours on negotiating the matter for you at London

I rec<sup>d</sup> by this post from Mr Franklin who is now at Boston a Coppy of an observation of the transit of Mercury at Antigua which I believe is the only one in the British Colonies—of which inclosed is a Coppy—I found in the Boston Evening post of July 23<sup>d</sup> an observation of the same at London of which inclosed is also a Coppy I am

Dear Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA: ALEXANDER

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*From Elizabeth Colden*

NEW YORK Aug<sup>st</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1753

Hon<sup>n</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

I have bin so much hurried ever since I came to town that it has bin almost imposable for me to set down to write and hope you will be so kind as to forgive my not performing this part of my duty before this your favour to Mr Colden by Willson we received last Satterday and most sencearly rejoyce to find you are all well and that we are like in a few days to have the pleasure of yours and my Sisters company here the town is I think as healthy as ever I know it at this time of the year a

good Many children have fluxes tho but few dye with it I was a little disordered for two or three days past I took a little Ruberb yesterday and this day am brave and well M<sup>r</sup> Colden and the Children continue to have there helth perfectly well M<sup>r</sup> Colden seames to be kept in a constant Hurry of Busness how it will turn out know not but have great reason to think it will prove advantageous M<sup>r</sup> Colden writes by this op<sup>ty</sup> and if there is any news you will I suppose have it from him for my part I here none pleas to assure my Mother of My Most dutifull regards I return her Many thanks for the pet-tetatoes I hear M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Elison goes tomorrow and shall endeavor to write to my Mother and some of Sisters by him he and Miss Polly dine with us to day My little flock are all at school pleas to offer my affect Love all My B<sup>rs</sup> and Sisters I am very glad to find B<sup>r</sup> Cad<sup>r</sup> Business is like to turn out well I sencarly wish it may continue it being near dinner time Must conclude with beging you will be assured I am and ever shall endeavor to continue dear Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> Most dutifull & most Obediant daug<sup>tr</sup>

ELIZ<sup>'TH</sup> COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at  
Coldenghame

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*From James Colden*

WHITSOM 20<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1753

D<sup>r</sup> B<sup>r</sup>

I had yours which was very agreeable as I had heard nothing from you for a long time when I heard Cap<sup>t</sup> Rutherford was come home I intended to have Seen him that I might get from him an account of your family but the winter came on before he Setled at his own house and I was taken with a long wasting kind of illness which ended in an ague attended with a flux that



brought me so low that in my best day I could with difficulty walk through my room that was removed by the bark but still some remains of it hung about me and last winter and especially the Spring it made me very weak and I had Such a Shortness of breath, that when I went up but one stair I was obliged to stand still and pant before I could go further this is now pretty well of with the use of bitters so that I hope soon to see the Cap<sup>t</sup> my wife had the ague at the same time with me, but she got better of with it but we are both drooping my children are all pretty well but Cad: we hoped he had got the better of his distemper but his leg turned worse last winter he hath his health very well I find my Self declining it is not probable I can last long so that I would take it as a great kindness that you would write as frequently as your convenience will permit D B as death looks us often in the face, it would be very profitable to us both to be frequently fixing our thoughts on it and preparing for that endless state into which we must enter when we leave this vain and troublsom world all here joyn in desiring to be affectionately remembered to you my Sister and your Children that our gracious God may take you and them under his almighty protection and pour down his best blessings on you all is the earnest prayer of

D: B:

Your Sincerely affectionate B<sup>r</sup>

JAMES COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
of New - York

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*From Peter Collinson*

LONDON Sep: 1: 1753

My Dear Friend

I have the pleasure to tell you that all the Suckers of the prickly ash thrive very Well it is by your Characters a Zanthonton or Toothach Tree probably your plant

may be a Male or Hermophradite as it bears no Seed. the Face of your plant is aparently different from the Virginia one but so farr as you have Examined their Characters Agree—it is very different from the Azalea Arborea I have all in my Garden before I had yours, but a store is no sore of Such rare plants—the Canada Tree called by the French the Bonduc is a New Tree, there is Two in England that grow Well but wether it will Agree with Linneus Characters I cannot say—for I never Saw the fruite

Never Certainly was a more Impolitick thing done then to Send Such Quantitys of Genseng Here—it has so Sunk the Markett—that there must be great Losses on it

My Lord Macclesfield as I believed I before told you Buried his Wife & Married his Son who now Stands Member for the County of Oxford—which has so Engaged his Lordship in politicks schemes all his Time is Engrossed, to the surprise of Every One that his Lordship could be prevaild on to Sacrifice his Serene Life to Noise & Party untill all the Hurry is over it will be to no purpose to show the professors remarks & your answer.

I wish for Some plants of your Small opuntia or prickly pear I apprehend this is the most nothern Situation it is found growing in—if the Leaves are putt on a small Box wrap'd up in Dry Moss & naild up or Tied up will come well by the Spring Ship

Wee are vastly alarmed with an account of the French Marching with some Hundred Men to build Forts & fix a possession on the Ohio River or Country thereabouts—this occasions the Hurrying away your New Governor—whose particular Character I cannot Learn but his General One is that He is a very Good Sort of a Man

I have no Letter Since yours of Feb<sup>y</sup> 16 pray did you make any observations on the Transit of Mercury

Doc<sup>r</sup> Mitchell has laid aside all his pretension to post Master—for they Insist on a Certain Income from Him

before he is Certain what His Income will be—He is complaining and cannot gett a Good state of Health

Phaps you now may have leisure to Indulge some natural Inquiries which I doubt not but you will Impart to your Sincere friend

P COLLINSON

Wee have had a most Delightfull Spring & Summer that Ever was Remembred—Wee have a great plenty of Wheat & a fine Harvest there was new Corn at Market about a Month agoe & our Tract is very forward Ripe Grapes in the Mid-August & now Sold about the streets

Our Ingenious F<sup>rd</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Franklin Has obliged us with 3 curious papers

On the Increase of Mankind

On the properties & Phenomena of the Air

On the present state of the Germans in America

My Dear f<sup>rd</sup> since my writeing the Letter I received your favour of July 7—with the answer to Eulers remarks which shall be inserted in the Magazine but as pro-Eulers remarks was read before the Royal Society, In Justice yours ought also to be read first before them before it is printed.

The use & application of your principles to other parts of nature, is the very thing Wee Wish to See So you will certainly do a very acceptable piece of Service to all Ingenious Men—I have in my Call told you of Lord Macclesfields Engagements I cannot find fault with your tartness if I had not soften'd his state you would had more Cause for so Doing—I think first to Send your answer to L<sup>d</sup> Macclesfeild for his perusal and afterwards take his advice in the affair

I am pleased to hear your Daughters Likeing to Botany it is a Delightfull amusement & a pretty accomplishment for a young Lady—for after the knowledge of plants, it may Lead her to Discover their Virtues & uses

Sep<sup>r</sup> 15: 1753

Y<sup>rs</sup> PC

[Indorsed]

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
New York



*From Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden*

My Dear

NEW YORK Oct<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1753

I got in good health to this place the next day after I left you between 7 & 8 at night as the Sloop passed Greenwich M<sup>r</sup> Nicholls called to me to come a shoar When I was informed of the most surprising end of S<sup>r</sup> Danvers Osborn that morning. He was first seen by the People abroad hanging on a hook at M<sup>r</sup> Murray's Garden fence & not seen by the People of the house till after seven. His Commission was published on Weddens-day M<sup>r</sup> Clinton when he delivered the Seals Delivered the Commission of L<sup>t</sup> Governor to C J De Lancey & he was sworn into the office on Friday before noon On Saturday about eleven he sent to desire my Company at the Fort Nothing but mutual civilities passed between us. He said he was coming to wait on me but saw me go out of the house & go on to M<sup>r</sup> Kennedy's. After I had qualified & some conversation had passed between us I told him that I designed to take leave of M<sup>r</sup> Clinton & return home On which he said that he hoped I would not go in 4 or 5 days because he wanted to advise with me on some affairs of Consequence. He shews as much regard to me as to any of the Council & takes every opportunity to do it Mr Horsmanden is left out of the list of Councillors Now My dear my mind will be free of some anxieties which I formerly could not avoid & I hope we shall seldom for the future be from each other & end our days together with all the Comfort that old age affords We have many glaring instances of the uncertainties attending life & let us resolve to make it as comfortable as we can without anxiety for the future part of it My mind is much easier now than it could have been if things had taken a different turn. But I cannot write many things which must be reserved to our meeting again Betty was in town the Sunday before last & return'd home on Munday M<sup>r</sup> De Lancey and the boys came to town in the midle of the Week & went home on friday.

S<sup>r</sup> Danvers was buried in the Church Saturday night I attended as a bearer The L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Murray as Mourners.

Our daughter & the Children are all well. She expressed her disappointment in not seeing David If he desire it & you are not averse to it he may come down to spend a week or two before Winter I shall not leave this before the end of the week One M<sup>r</sup> Hunter & M<sup>r</sup> Franklin of Philadelphia are appointed joint Post Masters of America

Oct<sup>r</sup> 15 David Came yesterday afternoon & is very well

16 Last night I received an affectionate letter from Betty all well I had wrote to her by D<sup>r</sup> Johnson (who dined with us yesterday) in a manner which would I hope please her & will be an answer to that letter before I received it I go out with M<sup>r</sup> Alexander tomorrow to Flushen to take leave of Admiral Clinton I still hope to set out about the end of the week if nothing occur which I do not now know of I am in good health Remember me affectionately to my dear Children & pray take care of your self that you may have a joyfull meeting with

[Indorsed]

Your most affectionate

To  
M<sup>rs</sup> COLDEN at  
Coldenham  
To be left at Newburgh

CADWALLADER COLDEN

*From Peter Collinson*

My Dear Friend

LONDON Octo: 18 1753

I had the pleasure of yours of the 7<sup>th</sup> July with your answer to Professor Eulers remarks but first I thought it but Decent & Respectfull to Communicate it to our Good Lord Macclesfield—& know his opinion. Professor Kastners is also come to hand—Mr. Dodsley will Decline publishing any more not finding the Encouragement He Expected but I know it will be acceptable to M<sup>r</sup> Cave

—So when His Lordship returns them to Mee I shall  
 proceed in the best Manner I can to make them publick  
 I am your Sincere & affectionate Frend

P COLLINSON

Doe<sup>r</sup> Linnaeus is now publishing his Species plantarum  
 with many new Coin'd Names which will So pervade the  
 Science of Botany that it will be Impracticable to Compre-  
 hend It—the Azalea's he has turn'd into Kalmias So  
 that Every book he prints will require a New Edition of  
 his Nova Genera which is a Greivous Tax & Imposition  
 on the publick

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
 at Coldenham

☞ Capt MACCLEVE New York

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### INDIAN DEED

To all To whom these presents shall or may in any  
 wise concern We Hendrick Piters and David & Abraham  
 Piters & niclos Native Indians and sole, and absolute  
 Proprietors of Conajoharey in the County of Albany  
 and Province of New York send greeting. Know Ye that  
 for, and in consideration of the Sum of Six Shillings Cur-  
 rant mony to Us in hand paid, and delivered before the  
 executeing of these presents, by the Hands of Adam  
 Barse & Jacob Miller Both of Burnetsfeild in the Coun-  
 ty & Province aforesaid, for and in the name of Our most  
 gracious Sovereign King George the Second, the receipt  
 whereof we do hereby acknowledge, and our Selves to be  
 therewith fully Satisfied contented & paid Have Granted  
 bargained Sold, and released. And do by these presents  
 for Us, and our Heirs forever grant bargain, Sell, Alien,  
 release enfeoff and confirm, and forever quitt claim, un-  
 to our Said Most Gracious Sovereign King George the  
 Second All that Tract of Land Situate lying and being  
 in the County of Albany on the North side of the Mo-  
 hawks River lying between the Pattents called Glens pur-



chase, and that of the German Flatts, Butted, and bounded as follows Viz<sup>t</sup> beginning at the South west Cornor of Lott number 14 at the Mohawk rever which Lott N<sup>o</sup> 12 is granded by His Majesties pattent to Elisabeth Hellmar runing from thence north 24 Degrees East Sixty two Chains thence north Sixty Degrees west one hundred & thirty four Chains thence South fifty five Chains thence South 65 Degrees East fifty Chains then thence South thirty Chains to the Mohawk rever thence Down the Rever to the place whereas first begun Containing Six hundred & forty one acres with allowance for High ways together with all and every the Mines Mineralls or Ore of what kind soever, standing growing being or to be found in or upon any part or parcel, thereof, and all other the Heriditaments, and appurtenances to the Said Tract, or parcel, of Land belonging or in any wise appurtenanting and the reversion & reversions, remainder & remainders. Rents Issues and Profits thereof, and of every part & parcell thereof, and all the estate, right title Interest property, possession, claim & demand whatsoever of Us, & each and every of Us, either in Law, or Equity, of, in, or to the afores<sup>d</sup> Tract or parcel of Land, or any part, or parcel, thereof To Have and To Hold the S<sup>a</sup> Tract or parcel of Land and all & Singular other the premisses afores<sup>d</sup>, w<sup>th</sup> their and every of their Heriditaments and appurtenances, in and by these presents mentioned, or intended to be granted & released as afores<sup>d</sup> unto our S<sup>d</sup> Most Gracious Sovereign King George the Second His Heirs & Successors to and for his, & their sole and only proper Use Benifit & behooff for Ever. In Witness whereof We have hereunto Sett Our Hands & Seals this 19 Day of October in the 27<sup>th</sup> Year of His Said Majesty's Reign Anno Dom. 1753

Sealed & Delivered

In the Presence of Us

Hendrick Frey Justice

Jacob Christ Man

HENDRICK IP PETERS

DAVID D

ABRAHAM APC PETERS

NICLOS N

I Hendrick Frey One of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Citty, and County of Albany do Certifie that I have seen the Within purchase regularly made, agreable to the Orders and direction in that case made & provided, and the consideration within mentioned fairly said to the Indians Satisfaction as Witness my Hand this 19 Day of October 1753—and I Likewise Do Certify that I Surveyed the Said tract of Land according to the Boundaries of the within written Deed of the Consent of the Hendrick Piters and Abraham Piters and David and gargiateckha before the Executing of Said Deed and also Jacob Christman appeared before me Before Executing the within Deed Sworn before me well and truly to Interpret Between the Said Indians and the purchasors

Witness

HENDRICH FREY Justice  
JACOB CHRISTMAN

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*From Three Indians to Mr. Goolding*

Mr Goolding

We Sachims of Canajoharie Desire you to Com up now with the Baror hier of and Survie the Land for David Schyler & his Sun Pieter &c nick pickert you most not have your mind we most have our mind two we can not Survie the Land in the Spring it most be Survied now we can not stay any longer for our Gift which is promist so To the Kastle for our Children so hope you com your self or Send or apoint a Debetie that may do it now directly so we remain your friends & Servts

PS

We Say come up now &  
Survie the Land for Pieter  
& his father we will have  
it now not the Spring we  
Say you must come

Canajoharie  
Octob<sup>r</sup> the 25. 1753

HIS  
HEINDRICH IP PIETERS

MARK

HIS  
ABRAM A P PIETERS

MARK

NICHIS



the Sachim

MARK

*From David Schyler, Peter Schyler, and Nicholas Pecherd  
to Mr. Goolding*

Mr Goolding Sr

CANAJOHARIE the 25 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1753

We desire you if you please to come up now before you go away to York we shall give you five pound Directly above what you should have from Bayerd and others for to come up for if it is not Survied now it will be a great loss for Each of us for the Indians will have there gift or present now from me and my Son Peeter which we promist them because they have given the Lands to us for a free Gift and if we give them the present now then we are afraid They will not give us the Land as they promist us if it should detain till Spring & then may be they will be Sett up by other people that then we should be oblidge to give them more presents or money through Such means therefore we bagg of you to come and do it now for in the Spring all the Kreeks are high and full of water the[n] whe can not do it as well as now and a great deal of charges in that time to the Indians for we can not deny any thing to them before it is Survied we most give them what they ask for or Els they will throw all over hoop agin and promise gifts upon new again none of your Yorek Gentlemen knows the way of the Indians yet as we that lives amongst them therefore we bag you to come up hope and remain your humble Serv<sup>ts</sup>

DAVID SCHYLER

PIETER SCHYLER

NICHOLAS PECHERD

*From Benjamin Franklin*

Dear Sir

PHILAD<sup>a</sup> Oct. 25, 1753

This last Summer I have enjoy'd very little of the Pleasure of Reading or Writing. I made a long Journey to the Eastward, which consum'd 10 Weeks; and two Jour-



neys to our Western Frontier: One of them to meet & hold a Treaty w<sup>th</sup> the Ohio Indians, in Company with M<sup>r</sup> Peters & M<sup>r</sup> Norris. I shall send you a Copy of the Treaty as soon as 'tis printed. I should be glad to know whether the Act mention'd in your History of the Five Nations, to prevent the People of N York supplying the French with Indian Goods, still subsists and is duly executed.

I left your Book with M<sup>r</sup> Bowdoin in Boston. I hope you will hear from him this Winter. I observ'd Extracts from it in all the Magazines, & in the Monthly Review. But I see no Observations on it.

I send you herewith Mons<sup>e</sup>. Nollet's Book. M. Dalibard writes me, that he is just about to publish an Answer to it, which perhaps may save me the Trouble.

I hope soon to find time to finish my new Hypothesis of Thunder & Lightning, which I shall immediately communicate to you.

I sent you ☯ our Friend Bartram, some meteorological Conjectures for your Amusement. When perus'd please to return them, as I have no Copy.

With sincere Esteem & Respect, I am, D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most hum<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To

The honble CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldenham

Free

B FRANKLIN

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*From Cadwallader Colden to B. Franklin*

[Copy]

COLDENHAM Nov<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1753

Dear S<sup>r</sup>

I have your favour of the 25<sup>th</sup> of last month while you are employed in affairs of consequence to the public I must submit to the Want of that pleasure which I all-

wise receive from your letters You will oblige me much by a Copy of your Treaty with the Ohio Indians as I hope thereby to see that you are pursuing the British interest among the Indians while it seems to be too much neglected in this Province

We have at present no law in this Province restraining the Trade to Canada except that by which a Duty is laid on Indian goods sold out of the City of Albany & applied for support of the Garrison at Oswego. It is certain that a very considerable Trade is carried on between Albany & Canada by means of the Cachnuaga or French Indians all of them deserters from the Five Nations When I was last at Albany there was at least 200 of them stout young fellows at one time in the Town In this Trade the Duty is evaded which the other Traders with Indians pay the Indians have passports from the Gov<sup>n</sup> of Canada & I therefrom conclude that this Trade is thought beneficial to the French Interest & it may be great inducement to our Indians to desert by the benefits they receive from it for none are allowed to be the carriers between Albany & Canada but French Indians

I shall be in a longing expectation of seeing Mr Bowdoin's observations on my book Mr Collinson sent me some remarks made on it by Professor Euler of Berlin He writes much like a Pedant highly conceited of himself Mr Collinson has receiv'd my answer which he proposed to communicate to L<sup>d</sup> Macclesfield & others who take some notice of my book Tho' I have several letters from Mr Collinson he makes no mention of having receiv'd the Answer to Professor Kastner which you sent him In his last of the 15<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> he tells me that you had obliged them with 3 curious papers on

The Increase of Mankind

The Properties & Phenomena of the Air &

The present state of the Germans in America

I may hope to have the pleasure on a little time of reading them as there is nothing from you which I do not read with much pleasure When Mr Bartram brought the papers from you which I now send back I was at

New York thinking my self obliged to give my attendance there on my having received a long letter from the Earl of Halifax in July last in which he did me the honour of expressing himself with some esteem for me which I have the more reason to value on its being wrote after a mature consideration of our publick transactions the great & unexpected changes which have happened since have unavoidably employed my thoughts The result I hope will leave me at ease in retirement I could not therefor read your papers with attention, till after my last return from New York about 4 weeks since You will find inclosed what occurred to my thoughts on reading of them Our knowledge in meteorology is very defective I have great expectations of the improvements you will make in it

I receiv'd the Abbe Nollets letters only on Saturday last since which there has not been time to read them. I find none of these publick Teachers can bear to have their dictates to their Schollars contradicted or that any should be capable of acquiring knowledge without their assistance the most unexpected remarks on my book I receiv'd lately with a letter from Sam<sup>l</sup> Pike a person entirely unknown to me with a book he has lately published entituled *Philosophia Sacra* wherein he attempts to deduce the Principles of Physiology from the Hebrew Bible He tells me that my Principles come nearest to the divine standard of any that have yet appeared and that my first little essay lead him to the true meaning of several parts of the Bible. If his book had not come with his letter I should have suspected him to be a way His remarks on the Principles of Action fill about 20 pages of the book He concludes with these Words "Thus the Substance of What Mr Colden asserts is regularly & mechanically explained by the Principles of revelation: and his thoughts upon Philosophy are found to be an unexpected & undesigned confirmation of the philosophy of Scripture". However his book has not increased my vanity much



That power by which the air expands itself you attribute to a mutual repelling power in the particles which compose the Air by which they are separated from each other with some degree of Force Now this force on this supposition must not only act when the particles are in mutual contact but likewise when they are at some distance from each other How can two bodies whether they be great or small act at any distance whether that distance be great or small without some thing intermediat on which they act For if any body act on an other at any distance from it however small that distance be without some medium to continue the action it must act where it is not which to me seems absurd

It seems to me for the same reason equally absurd to give a mutual attractive power between any other particles supposed to be at a distance from each other without any thing intermediat to continue their mutual action I can neither attract nor repel any thing at a distance without something between my hand & that thing like a string or a stick nor can I conceive any mutual action without some such middle thing The increase of the surface of any body lessens its weight both in our water or in any other Fluid as appears by the slow descent of leaf Gold in the air The observation of the different density of the Lower & upper air from heat & cold is good & I do not remember it is taken notice of by others & the consequences well drawn but as to Winds they seem principally to arise from some other cause Winds most generally blow from large Tracts of Land & from Mountains Where I live on the North side of the mountains we frequently have a strong Southerly Wind when they have as strong a northerly Wind or a Calm on the other side of these Mountains. The continual passing of Vessels on Hudson's through these Mountains give frequent Opportunities of observing this

In the Spring of the year the Sea wind (by a piercing cold) is allwise more uneasy to me accustomed to wind which pass over a tract of Land than the northwest winds

## Water Spout

You have received the common notion of Water spouts which from my own ocular observation I am persuaded is a false conception In a Voyage to the West Indies I had an opportunity of observing many Water spouts One of them passed nearer than 30 or 40 yards to the Vessel I was in which I viewed with a good deal of attention & tho it be now 40 years since I saw it, it made so strong an impression on me that I very distinctly remember it These Water spouts were in the Calm latitude that is between the Trade & variable winds in the month of July That spout which came so near us was an inverted cone with top or apex towards the sea & reached within about 8 foot of the surface of the Sea its basis in a large black cloud We were entirely becalmed It passed slowly by the Vessel. I could plainly observe that a violent stream of Wind issued from the spout which made a hollow of about six feet Diameter in the Surface of the Water & raised the Water in a circular uneven ring round the hollow in the same Manner that a strong blast from a pair of bellows would do when the pipe is placed perpendicular to the surface of the Water & we plainly heard the same kind of hissing noise which such a blast of wind must produce on the Water I am very sure there was nothing like the sucking of Water from the Sea into the spout unless the spray which was raised in a ring to a small height could be mistaken for a raising of Water. I could plainly distinguish a distance of about 8 feet between the sea & the top of the cone in which nothing interrupted the light which must have been had water been raised from the sea

In the same Voyage I saw several other Spouts at a greater distance but none of them whose tip of the cone came so near the Surface of the Water In some of them the Axis of the cone was considerably inclined from the perpendicular others of them were bent or arched but in none of them was there the least appearance of sucking up of water I believe that a stream of Wind issued

from all of them & it is from this stream of Wind that Vessels are often overset or founder at sea suddenly I have heard of Vessels being overset when it has been perfectly calm the instant before the stream of Wind struck them & immediately after they were overset which could not otherwise be but by such a stream of Wind from a cloud

That Wind is generated in Clouds will not admit of a Dispute now if such Wind be generated within the body of the Cloud & issues in one particular place while it finds no passage in the other parts of the cloud I think it may not be difficult to account for all the appearances in Water spouts & from hence the reason of breaking those spouts by firing a cannon ball through them as thereby a horizontal vent is given to the wind When the Wind is spent which dilated the cloud or the fermentation ceases which generates the air & Wind the clouds may descend in a prodigious fall of Water or rain A Remarkable intestine motion like a violent fermentation is very observable in the cloud from whence the spout issues. No Salt Water I am persuaded was ever observed to fall from the clouds which must certainly have happened if sea water had been raised by a Spout  
To Mr. FRANKLIN.

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*Cadwallader Colden to P. Collinson*

[Copy]

COLDENGHAM Dec<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1753

D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

I am sorry from the Love I bear to Physiology & astronomy in particular to hear by yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sep<sup>t</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> last that L<sup>d</sup> Macclesfield is engaged in Politics for I know from experience it is much easier to keep out of them than to get out. I would send you what I have don in showing the use of my Principles in explaining other parts of the most general Phenomena in Nature



but as every part depends in a great measure on the other so that the one cannot be clearly understood without reference to the other I have at the same time been employed in making additions to what is already published & in making several corrections for I have discovered more defects in it than have been taken notice of in any remarks made on it which I have seen I perceive that you are unwilling to tell me every thing that may discourage me & among the rest why you tell me nothing from Mr Dodsley I can easily guess that the Impression is far from Answering his expectations & for that reason 'I conclude that he nor no other will undertake a new Edition But notwithstanding of this I remain satisfied that my Principles are really founded in nature & that I can make this more evident than I have not only by cleaning up some obscurities & supplying the Defects in the first Edition but likewise by the applications which I have made of them to the Cohesion of the parts of bodies & to the Phenomena of Light & Colours so accurately described in S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton's Optics which I expect will more generally please than any thing I have formerly don But as I suspect that an Impression will not be readily undertaken unless subscriptions can be obtained for the Incouragement of the Printer I hope persons of knowledge will be able to Judge from what they have seen how far it may deserve such incouragement & I beg of you to let me know their Sentiments without reserve In the mean time I shall go on to make it as perfect as I am capable to do for I expect this will be the last hand I can ever put to this work If you can obtain any other remarks from your friends I shall be much obliged to both you & them It is with view to make these Amendments that I desired you to send me two copies of the Principles of Action in Sheets which please not to forget

I design to send with this by Mr Alex<sup>rs</sup> care a small box with our Opuntia put into Moss as you ordered We have seen it growing as far north as the Lat. of 42 compleat about 30 miles to the northward of this place

I expect that it is more likely to come safe in the Winter than by the Spring ships. It grows in a black dry mould on rocks & sometimes shoots it roots down between the clefts I do not know the Bonduc & cannot tell you whether it grows in this Country

In my last I inclosed for D<sup>r</sup> Fothergill what account I was able to give of the throat destroyer which has continued several years & still frequently breaks out in this Country. M<sup>r</sup> Franklin this summer sent me some Papers he had wrote on the air &c in which he had received the common Account of Water Spouts which I know from my own observation to be erroneous I enclose a copy of what I wrote to him on that subject as probably you will be pleased to have that common error discovered

In the beginning of Sept<sup>r</sup> last I inclosed a letter to the Earl of Halifax in answer to one I had the honour to receive from him & from which I had received hopes of obtaining the Sallary I desired for the Surveyor Gen<sup>ls</sup> office & I intreated your care to have that letter delivered to him with your assistance & your friend M<sup>r</sup> Hill's to solicit his Lord<sup>p</sup> in my favour As it is the only thing I can now expect after above 30 years Service under many difficulties & of w<sup>ch</sup> his Lord<sup>p</sup> seem'd sensible Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton promised me his Interest but as he must have many things to think of on his first returning home his friends at a great distance & who now have no connection with him may be in danger of being forgot I must constantly repeat that I am

D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

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*From James Alexander*

Dear Sir

NEW YORK Dec<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1753

I had yours of the 4<sup>th</sup> with your Letter & box for M<sup>r</sup> Collinson which I intend to Send by the Dover without charge to him

Your Son Sent me last night your Letter to M<sup>r</sup> franklin w<sup>t</sup> the Abbe Nollets Letters, & your Son Davids observations on them, and I am very much of your & Sons opinion concerning them haveing just almost read them thro, in order to return them tomorrow to forward to M<sup>r</sup> franklin by the post

Yesterday the Council past the bill which gives to his Majesty the usual duties for a year without mentioning any use but to be applied by future aid

the day before they unanimously rejected the application bill, by which the whole Salary was given the L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup>

James Parker is so busie w<sup>t</sup> the Assemblye votes that he has not finisht the memorial I mentioned in my last otherwise I should have Sent you a Coppy of it now

My wife tells me she has already answered the Letter that was inclosed in yours—she joins with me more Compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> Colden & all your family I am

Dear Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JA. ALEXANDER

*David Colden's Reply to the Abbé Nolet*

Dec<sup>r</sup> 1753

In considering the Abbe Nolet's Letters to M<sup>r</sup> Franklin I am obliged to pass by all the experiments which are made with or in bottles hermetically Sealed, or exhausted of Air because not being able to repeat the experiments I could not second any thing which occurs to me thereon by experimental prooffe. Wherefore the first point of which I can dare to give my opinion is in the Abbe's 4<sup>th</sup> Letter page 66 where he undertakes to prove that the Electric Matter passes from one Surface to another thro' the entire thickness of the Glass; he takes M<sup>r</sup> Franklin's Experiment of the Magical picture & writes thus of it, "When you Electrize a Pane of Glass coated on each



side with Metal, it is evident that whatever is placed on the side opposite to that which receives the Electricity from the Conductor, receives also an evident Electrical Virtue which M<sup>r</sup> Franklin says, is that equal quantity of Electric matter driven out of this side by what is received from the conductor on the other side, and which will continue to give an Electrical virtue to any thing in contact with it till it is entirely discharged of its electrical fire; to which the Abbe thus objects. "Tell me, says he, I pray you, how much time is necessary for this discharge? I can assure you that after having mentain'd the Electrification for hours, this surface which ought, it seems to me, to be entirely destitute of its Electric matter, considering either the vast number of sparkes that were drawn from it, or the time that it had been exposed to the action of the expulsive cause, this surface, I say, appear'd rather better Electrified & more proper to produce all the effects of an actual Electric body" page 68. The Abbe does not tell us what those effects were; all the effects I could never observe, & those that are to be observed can easily be accounted for by supposing that side to be entirely destitute of Electric matter; The most sensible effect of a body charged with electricity is that when you present your finger to it a spark will issue from it to your finger—Now when a Phiol prepared for the Lyden experiment is hung to the Gun barrel or prime Conductor, & you turn the Globe in order to charge it, as soon as the Electric matter is excited you can observe a spark to issue from the external surface of the phiol to your finger, which M<sup>r</sup> Franklin says is the natural electric matter of the Glass driven out by that received by the inner surface from the conductor, if it be only drawn out by sparkes a vast number of them may be drawn, but if you take hold of the external surface with your hand, the phiol will soon receive all the Electric matter it is capable of, & the outside will then be entirely destitute of its Electric matter & no spark can be drawn from it by the finger. here then is a want of the effect which all bodies charged with electricity have. Some of the effects

of an Electric body which I suppose the Abbe has observed in the external surface of the phiol are that all light bodies are attracted by it, this is an effect which I have constantly observed but do not think it proceeds from an attractive quality in the external surface of the phiol, but in those light bodies themselves which appear to be attracted by the phiol. It is a constant observation that when one body has a greater charge of Electric matter in it than another that is in proportion to the quantity they will hold this body will attract that which has less: Now I suppose & it is a part of M<sup>r</sup> Franklins system that all those light bodies which appear to be attracted have more electric matter in them than the external surface of the phiol has, wherefore they endeavour to attract the phiol to them which is too heavy to be moved by the small degree of force they exert, which yet being greater than their own weight moves them to the Phiol. The following Experiment will help the imagination in conceiving this, viz, Suspend a Cork ball or a Feather by a silk thread & electrise it, then bring this ball nigh to any fixed body, & it will appear to be attracted by that body for it will fly to it; now by the consent of all Electricians the attractive cause is in the ball it self which appears to be attracted & not in the fixed body to which it flies this is a similar case with the apparent attraction of Light bodies to the external surface of a charged Phiol.

The Abbe says in page 69 that he can Electrise 100 men standing on wax if they hold hands & one of them touch one of these surfaces with the end of his finger, this I know he can do while the Phiol is charging, but after the Phiol is charged I am as certain he cannot That is, hang the Phiol to the Conductor & let a man standing on the floor touch the coating with his finger, while the globe is turned, till the electrical matter spews out of the hook of the Phiol or some part of the conductor, which I take to be the certainest sign that the Phiol has received all the Electric matter it can, after this appears let the man who before stood on the floor

step on a Cake of wax, where he may stand for hours & the Globe all that time turned, & yet have no appearance of being electrified. After the electric matter was spewed out as above from the hook of a Phiol, prepared for the Leiden Exp<sup>t</sup> I hung another Phiol in like manner prepared to a hook fixed in the coating of the first & held this other Phiol in my hand, now if there was any electric matter transmitted thro' the Glass of the first Phiol the second one would certainly receive & collect it, but having kept the Phiols in this situation for a considerable time during which the globe was continually turned, I could not perceive that the second Phiol was in the least charged, for when I touched the hook with my finger as in the Lyden Experiment I did not feel the least commotion, nor perceive any spark to issue from the hook. I likewise made the following Experiment Having charged two Phiols prepared for the Lyden Experiment thro their hooks, two persons took each one of these Phiols in their hand, one held his Phiol by the coating, the other by the hook, which he could do by removing the communication from the bottom of it before he took it by the hook; these persons placed themselves one on each side of me, while I stood on a Cake of Wax & took hold of the hook of that Phiol which was held by its coating (upon which a small spark issued, but the Phiol was not discharged as I stood on wax) keeping hold of the hook I touched the coating of that Phiol which was held by its hook, with my other hand, upon which there was a large spark to be seen between my finger, & the coating, & both Phiols were instantly discharged

If the Abbe's opinion be right that the exterior Surface communicating with the Coating is charged, as well as the interior communicating with the hook How can I who stand on wax discharge both these Phiols, when it is well known, I could not discharge one of them singly, nay suppose I have drawn the electric matter from both of them, what becomes of it, for I appear to have no additional quantity in me when the experiment is over,



& I have not stir'd off the wax, wherefore this experiment fully convinces me that the exterior surface is not charged & not only so but that it wants as much electric Matter as the interior surface has of excess, for by this supposition, which is apart of M<sup>r</sup> Franklin's System, the above experiment is easily accounted for, as follows, when I stand on a Cake of Wax my body is not capable of receiving all the Electric matter, from the hook of one Phiol, which it is ready to give; neither can my body give as much to the coating of the other Phiol as it is ready to take, when one is only applied to me, but when they are both applied, the coating takes from me what the hook gives: Thus I receive the fire, from the first Phiol, at B, the exterior surface of which is supplied from the hand at A; I give the fire to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phiol at C whose inner surface is discharged by the hand at D, this discharge at D may be made evident by receiving that fire into the hook of the third Phiol, which is don thus, in place of taking the hook of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phiol in your hand run the wire of a 3<sup>d</sup> Phiol prepared as for the Lyden Exp<sup>t</sup> thro it, & hold this 3<sup>d</sup> Phiol in your hand the 2<sup>nd</sup> one hanging by the ends of the hooks run thro each other when the experiment is performed this 3<sup>d</sup> Phiol receives the fire at D & will be charged. When this Experiment is considered I think it must fully prove that the exterior surface of a charge & Phiol wants electrical matter while the interior surface has an excess of it One thing more worthy of notice in this experiment is that I feel no commotion or Shock in my Arms, tho so great a quantity of electric Matter passes thro' them instanteniously, I only feel a pricling in the ends of my fingers this makes me think the Abbe is mistaken'd when he says there is no other difference between the shock felt in performing the Lyden Experiment & the prickling felt on drawing simple sparkes, than that of greater to less; In the last experiment as much electric matter went thro my arms as would have given me a very sensible shock had there been an immediate communication by my Arms from the hook to the coating of the same Phiol because when

it was taken into a 3<sup>d</sup> Phiol, that Phiol discharged singly thro my Arms it gave a very sensible shock. If these experiments prove that the electric matter does not pass the entire thickness of the Glass, it is a necessary consequence that it must alwise come out where it enterd

The next thing I meet with is in the 5<sup>th</sup> Letter page 88 where the Abbe differs from M<sup>r</sup> Franklin who thinks that the whole power of giving a shock is in the Glass itself & not in the non electrics in contact with it; The experiments which M<sup>r</sup> Franklin gave to prove this opinion in his Experiments & Observations on Electricity Letter 3<sup>d</sup> pg 24 convinced me that he was in the right, and what the Abbe has asserted in contradiction thereto has not made me think otherwise; The Abbe perceiving, as I suppose that the experiments as M<sup>r</sup> Franklin had performed must prove his assertion, alters them without giving any reason for it, & makes them in a manner that proves nothing, Why will he have the Phiol, held in a mans hand? if the power of giving a shock is in the water contain'd in the Phiol, it should remain there tho decanted into an other Phiol, since no non electric body touched it to take that power off, the Phiol being placed on glass is no objection, for it can not take the power from the water if it had any but it is a necessary means to try the fact, whereas that Phiols being charged when held in a mans hand only proves that the water will conduct the Electric matter, the Abbe owns page 94 that he has heard this remarked, but says, why is not a conductor of Electricity an Electric Subject? This is not the Question M<sup>r</sup> Franklin never said that water was not an Electric Subject he said that the power of giving a shock was in the Glass & not in the water, & this his Experiments fully prove, so fully that it may appear impertinent to offer any more Yet as I do not know that the following one has been taken notice of by any body before, my inserting of it in this place may be excused; it is this, Hang a Phiol, prepared for the Lyden Experiment to the Conductor by its hook, & charge it, which done remove the communication from

the bottom of the Phiol now the Conductor shews evident signs of being Electrified; if a thread be tied round it & its ends left about 2 inches long, they will extend them selves out like a pair of horns; but if You touch the Conductor a spark will issue from it & the threads will fall nor does the conductor shew the least sign of being electrified after that, I think that by this touch I have taken out all the charge of Electric matter that was in the Conductor, the hook of the Phiol, water or filings of Iron contain'd in it, which is no more than we see all non electric bodies will receive; yet the Glass of the Phiol retains its power of giving a shock, which any one will find that pleases to try; This Experiment fully evidences that the water in the Phiol contains no more electric matter than it would do in an oppen basson, & has not any of that great quantity which produces the shock, & is only retain'd by the Glass. If after the spark is drawn from the conductor, you touch the coating of the Phiol, (which all this while is supposed to hang in the air free from any non Electric body) the threads on the Conductor will instantly start up, & shew that the conductor is Electrised, it receives this electrification from the inner surface of the Phiol, which when the outer surface can receive what it wants from the hand applied to it, will give as much as the bodies in contact with it can receive, or if they be large enough, all that it has of excess, it is diverting to see how the threads will fall & rise by touching the Conductor, & Coating of the Phiol alternately

May it not be that the difference between the charged side of the Glass & the outer or emptied side being lessened by touching the hook on the conductor the outer side can receive from the rod which touched & by its receiving the inner side cannot retain so much & for that reason so much as it cannot retain Electrises the water or filings & conductor For it seems to be a rule that the one side must be emptied in the same proportion that the other is filled, Tho this from Experiment appears evident is still a mystery not easy to be accounted for



I am in many places of the Abbe's book surprised to find that Experiments have succeeded so differently at Paris from what they did with M<sup>r</sup> Franklin & as I have allwise observed them to do The Abbe in making experiments to find the difference between the two Surfaces of charged Glass will not have the Phiol placed on Wax, for says he, don't you know that being placed on a body originally electric, it quickly loses its virtue; I cannot imagine what should have made him think so, it certainly is contradictory to the notions commonly received of Electrics per Se & by experiment I find it entirely otherwise for having several times left a charged Phiol, for that purpose, standing on wax for hours I found it to retain as much of its charge as an other that stood at the same time on a Table: I left one standing from 10 o'clock at night till 8 next morning on wax when I found it to retain a sufficient quantity of its charge to give me a sensible commotion in my arms, tho the Room in which the Phiol stood had been swept in that time which must have raised much dust to facilitate the discharge of the Phiol

I find that a Cork ball suspended between two bottles the one fully & the other but little charged, will not play between them but is driven into a situation that makes a triangle with the hooks of the Phiols, tho the Abbe has asserted the contrary of this page 101 in order to account for the playing of a cork ball between the wire thrust into a Phiol & one that rises up from its coating. The Phiol which is least charged must have more Electric matter given to it in proportion to its bulk than the Cork ball receives from the hook of the full Phiol

The Abbe says page 102 that a piece of metal leafe hung to a silk thread & electrified will be repelled by the bottom of a charged Phiol which is held by its hook in the Air; this I find constantly otherwise, it is with me alwise first attracted & then repelled; it is necessary in charging the leafe to be carefull that it does not fly off to some non electric body & so discharge itself when you

think it is charged, it is difficult to keep it from flying to your [w]rist or some part of your own body

The Abbe says page 108 that it is not impossible as Mr Franklin says it is to charge a Phiol while there is a communication form'd without from its coating to its hook; I have alwise found it impossible to charge such a Phiol so as to give a shock, indeed if it hang on the Conductor without a Communication from it you may draw a spark from it as you may from any body that hangs there, but this is very different from being charged in such a manner as to give a shock. The Abbe in order to account for the little quantity of electric matter that is to be found in the phiol says that it rather follows the mettal than the Glass, & that it spreads into the Air from the Coating of the Phiol. I wonder how it comes not do so too when it sifts thro' the Glass & charges the exterior Surface according to the Abbe's System

The Abbe's objections against Mr Franklins two last Experiments, I think have little of weight in them, he seems indeed to have been much at a loss what to say to them, wherefore he takes Mr Franklin with having concealed a material part of the experiment, a thing too mean for any Gentleman to be charged with, who has not shewn as great a degree of partiality in relating experiments, as the Abbe has don.

Ex. I—I took M. Muschenbroek's bottle and thrust a quill thro' the cork so far that the under end of it was a quarter of an inch under the water, then I melted wax round the cork to prevent any air from geting out, & thus prepair'd Electrised the bottle when I could not perceive that the water was in the least rais'd in the quill, nor did there seem to be any alteration made in the effects of the bottle; The Water would immeadiately run out at the top of the quill when this bottle was held by the fire

Ex. II—I made a strong lather of soap in a peuter bason which was set on wax & Electrified by a communication from the Prime conductor, then I raised a large bubble

in the water, by a pipe, upon approaching this bubble with my finger it would rise to it & a spark would issue from its top this might be repeated several times without breaking the bubble

Ex. III—The naked Phial when charg'd will not be restored to its equilibrium by the Dissipator, as the Coated one will, that is, when the Phial in charg'd take it in one hand, & apply one end of the Dissipator to the bottom of it & bring the other end in contact with the wire in the Phial the equilibrium will not be made thro' the Dissipator but thro' your body as you will easily perceive by the convulsive shock in your arms; If there be a small strap of Lead round the bottom of the Phial & one end of the Dissipator applied so that the equilibrium will be restored thro the Dissipator & you will feel nothing

Ex. IV—Silk threads will diverge from Each other in their natural state; that is hold half a dozen silk threads together by one of their ends & let the other hang loose they will each recede from its next near 2 inches, nor can you make them stick together

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*From Benjamin Franklin*

PHILAD<sup>A</sup> Dec. 6. 1753

Dear Sir

I receiv'd your Fav<sup>r</sup> of the 29<sup>th</sup> past, with some Remarks on my meteorological Paper, for which I thank you, and return some Observations on those Remarks, hoping by this Friendly Intercourse of Sentiments and Objections, some Advantage will arise to the Increase of true Knowledge.

I sent you our Treaty some time since; you will find very little in it. But I have hopes it will introduce a Regulation of our Indian Trade, by the Government taking it in hand, and furnishing the Indians with Goods at the cheapest Rate without aiming at Profit, as is done by the Massachusetts, by which Means I think we must



vastly undersell the French, & thereby attach the Indians more firmly to the British Interest.

M<sup>r</sup> Collinson certainly received your Answer to Kastner, I think one of his Letters to me mentions it.

I send you herewith a Copy of my Paper on the Increase of Mankind; the only one I have, so must request you to return it. That on the Air, &c is what you have already seen. The third mention'd to you by M<sup>r</sup> Collinson concerning the Germans is scarce worth sending, it will contain nothing new to you

I congratulate you on L. Halifax's Approbation of your Conduct in Publick Affairs. From such a Man the Honour is great, and the Satisfaction; But the Approbation of your own Mind is something more valuable in itself, and it is what I doubt not you will always enjoy.

I should like to see Pikes Book some time or other when you can conveniently send it

With great Esteem & Respect, I am,

Sir,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Hum<sup>b</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

*From Elizabeth De Lancey*

Dear Sir

WEST CHESTER Feb<sup>ry</sup> 20 1754

I now with pleasure sit down to spend a little leisure time in conversing in this tranquil manner with you but as I know of no opportunity yet to send it by perhaps it may afford a much later date before it goes Before I would write any farther I went to look for your last letter but cant get the drawer open that it is in. I remember Sir you wrote something upon the Childrens learning & took notice that the Boys made their Lessons too much a task, I have observ'd the same, & was sorry to see they took no more delight in their improvement and use every method I am capable of to rectify it I believe the loose they had at M<sup>r</sup> Johnsons has been a great damage to

them in taking their minds off their Studys—they now lose very little time & don't show any reluctance at being in School, but still I am affraid if they were left to themselves, they have not delight enough in their Books to prefer them before their diversions & other amusements but I will not give over hope of seeing it yet otherwise; their Papa gives them no room to hope for his favour unless they improve in their learning, I do what I can on my part & their Master seems not to be wanting on his as far as he is capable & I hope it will please God to bless our endeavours. We are much at a loss that we have not any body near us that is capable of advising us, or that we can consult with; & 'tis seldom that we see any body that is either capable, or cares to take the trouble to see what progress the Children makes. Mr Chambers has read the Belles Lettres since you recommended them & says he intends them another reading, but he says he thinks most of the precepts difficult to put in practice. Oliver is like to have an impediment in his Learning upon account of a weekness & ailment in his right Eye, I wish Sir you'd please to advise me what to do for it, he has had two small white specks upon his eye these two years, & has such a weekness in it that he cant bear to look at the light, nor to read but a few lines without its watering very much: as well as I can remember my Brother Cadwallader, & Sister Jane were much the same way afflicted many years ago, perhaps you may remember what help'd them, please to let me know if you do. Since I began my letter I have had the pleasure of my Mother & Sisters letters by my Brother, my Mothers lays an additional obligation on me to write to her which I shall now haste to do as soon as I have concluded offering Mr De Lancey & the Childrens' affectionate and dutyfull regards to you & my Sisters & Brothers that the greatest & best of blessings may for ever be your Portion is sincerely desir'd & pray'd for by Dr Sir

Your most dutyfull & obedient daughter  
ELIZ. DE LANCEY

P S I had but just finish'd  
my letter when I met with an  
unexpected opportunity of sending  
it John Neelly calling to see us  
in his way to his Sister in Laws  
[Indorsed]

To  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
att  
Febr 20 1754 Coldenham

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*From Peter Collinson*

LONDON, March 6<sup>th</sup> 1754

Dear Mr Alexander

I am pleased that the maps was acceptable In the Trunk I send you some others—when I know the price of these last may add it to Your account

We are much Obligated to You for Your account of Bonneau In Yours of October 25<sup>th</sup>

No Doubt But you have heard, our Ingenious friend Mr Franklin is presented by the Royal Society with a Gold Medal for his Curious Electrical Discoverys

We have no Other account But p<sup>r</sup> Antigua, of the Transitt of Mercury—that of Venus, we may hope to see, But God knows How we shall Be disposed of, Before that Time Comes—As we have a very Good understanding with R: Academy at Paris that Point no doubt will Be settled Between us, for Reciprocal Observations on that Planet.

You have my Dear friend the thanks of our Astronomical members, for the pains you took, and Your friend Mr Dice and Your son Mr Stevens, it is with great Concern they read In Yours of the 21 may Last, how Curiously you was accomodated for the Observation—Indeed it was a great disappointment To You, But more to us—for we had fixed our attention On You—But since it Could not be Prevented, We will hope for Better Success, If Please God You live till Venus make her Transit

I am with Sincere respects Your Affectionate friend  
P. COLLINSON



We are all here greatly unhinged on the death of Mr Pelham Who was Walking in the Park seeming very well recovered On fryday March 1 Came home and Eat a hearty Dinner of Oysters, & Beef Stakes, soon after felt a Shivering Cold went to Bed, a stronger Shivering fitt took him in the night, Indigestion Brought on a fever, which carried him off Wednesday Morning March 6<sup>th</sup> to the Great Loss of the King and his Country who was a Worthy man & Generally Beloved

We all are Greatly Concerned for the King, at his years to be so Embarrassed—for before the administration was settled, and all went on Smoothly, so that he hoped to have Gently Slide on to his Period—But now a new Minister, and a New Parliament is to Be Chosen for the first there is none thought Equall To the Old One, Expect Mr Fox and for the Parliament no Scheme can Yet be formed, it may be happy If the new Minister falls in with the Old—But that's uncertain he having Schemes & friends of his own—I hope Good Providence will direct the King for the Best in his Choice for his own Peace and the Nations Good

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*From James Alexander*

[Copy of part of Wm. Burnets letter of March 30, 1754]

Mr Browne In his Last to me Sep. 15, 1753 has In-closed me Coppies of all that pass'd Between You & Dr Colden on the Subject of Mullender's Patent, with Copy of the Petition, and Your Letter to himself, wherein You advise him to apply to me for opinion of Council upon the three Questions You propose, I have accordingly Consulted with a Learned and Very Judicious Council, and upon Stating the Case to him in the Best manner I Could, He's Clearly of opinion, In answer to Your first Question, That if the Lands were Contracted for by agreements In writing, or Earnest money paid, Before Gov<sup>r</sup> Burnet made his will, the Lands will In that Case,

pass by the will; because a Court of Equity would Consider the Lands as Belonging to the purchaser, from the very moment that the Contract became Binding; but that if there was no Such Contract for the purchase before the Making of the will, the Lands will pass to the heir;

To Your Second Question, his answer is that if the Lands did not pass by the will, then the Heirs or assigns of the Testator are the only Proper persons to Surrender the first patent, in order to obtain a new one, rectifying the Errors of the former.

With Regard to the third Question, He Seem'd to think it Included in, and Determin'd by the Second; and that it was refining upon the Case more than there appeared any necessity for, to perplex ourselves with the apprehension, whether the new patents might Ever Come to be Judged void for want of Title in the person Surrendering the old

Upon The whole he advises the having a new patent and that it be taken in Consideration of the Surrender of the old patent, & if you think it Best to make to me recital of the former patent in the new one, that it may be proper to recite *Specially*, that the new patent was petitioned for, and granted, to Rectify a mistake in Describing the Boundaries of the Lands granted by the former, & In *Consideration* of the Surrender of the former &c. The Council I Consulted is the hon<sup>abl</sup> Charles Yorke Esq<sup>r</sup> Second Son to the Lord Chancellor

I have not Yet mentioned the affair to my Brother Gilbert, Being Desirous to be first Informed from Mr Browne & yourself, whether You Can Trace any Such agreement in writing as is mentioned in the answer to your first Question, if no Such thing appears, you See the Case is Clear, as you at first Imagin'd, in favour of Gilbert; And I shall in that Case, acquaint him with the matter and advise him to Execute a proper power, (Either to Yourself or to whomsoever You Shall advice, if it's not Convenient for you to undertake it) In order to have it Sold & the produce remitted to him.

I Desire You would present my Respects to D<sup>r</sup> Colden and assure him of my Readiness to acknowledge my obligations to him, upon any opportunity, for the kind assistance he has afforded you in the management of our affairs

### Coppy of Alexanders Minute on them

As to which I never Saw any thing amongst the papers Purporting any Such prior agreement or Earnest, and much doubt if there by any Such thing, 1<sup>stly</sup> Because Gov<sup>r</sup> Burnet, Commonly finisht Things at once, that he thought of, 2<sup>dly</sup> as the Consideration I think was But £50 York money, he Lookt then on Such a thing as a meer Triffle not worth much thought of, 3<sup>dly</sup> the Considerable time of about four months Between date of the will and date of the purchase. I shall write to D<sup>r</sup> Colden Requesting him to Signifie it to me if he knows any Thing of any Prior agreement with Mullinder Before Decem<sup>r</sup> 1727 when will was made, and to Enquire of Mullender and his wife if alive, if they know of any Such, and to Signifie their Answer—M<sup>r</sup> Burnets Letter Inclosed, also a Letter to W<sup>m</sup> Brown Esq<sup>r</sup> to be forwarded

NEW YORK, June 25<sup>th</sup> 1754

Dear Sir

Herewith you have Coppies of Some paragraphs of a Letter I have yesterday Received from the Rev. W<sup>m</sup> Burnet, Concerning Mullinders 1000 acres, with Coppy of my Sentiments thereon, Enter'd In Minutes of it—and I doubt not You'll make the Enquiry therein mentioned, & Signifie the result thereon, & your own thoughts

As it will be most Convenient for you Either to hold the Bargain already made by you for that Land, or to make a new Bargain, I doubt not you'll accept of a power of attorney from Gilbert Burnet for that purpose should



it prove his, as I Think it Certainly will, if you Can find  
no agreement for the Purchase nor Earnest, Before Gov<sup>r</sup>  
Burnets will I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedeint & most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JA. ALEXANDER

To the hon.<sup>able</sup> CADWALLAD<sup>r</sup> COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
[Indorsed]

To  
The honourable  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Coldenham

*Cadwallader Colden to B. Franklin*

[Copy]

April 2<sup>d</sup> 1754

Dear S<sup>r</sup>

I should have acknowledged your favour of the 1<sup>st</sup> of January sooner if you had not at the same time told me that you was to be from home for some time after the writing of it & I had my thoughts engaged in a chain of thinking that I was unwilling to interrupt us that season was the only time of the year in which I could hope to pursue it without Interruption My design was to shew by the best observations made in the space of 270 years that the Theory of the Motion of the Planets which I have formed agrees better with the appearances in the heavens than any Theory hitherto published & that Tables may be formed on that Theory more correct than any that have hitherto appeared without excepting those formed by D<sup>r</sup> Halley & published so lately as 1749 which I can shew from M<sup>r</sup> Flamsteed's & Lord Maclesfield's observations to be allmost every where faulty. This I am the more fond of because it is not so much for the pleasure of Imagination by Amusement as of real use but attended with exceeding great care & attention & trouble

You have given me an anxious longing to see your answer to the Abbe Nollets Objections to your Theory as I make no doubt of its being made more evident thereby

& cleared from any obscurities which such things are unavoidably subject at first appearing especially with those that are not much conversant in the subject Persons who write in the manner the Abbe does not for the sake of truth & information but to secure or gain a reputation seldom avoid loosing what they chiefly intend to preserve I am pleased with your resolution of not taking notice of his chicanery as of that low I know not what to call it chit chat slander of your being a Quaker If you were what is it to the purpose The Justice which I hear is done to your Merit by the Royal Society makes full recompense for these little abuses & I heartily congratulate you upon it

If you think proper to communciate your answer to the Abbe to me before you transmit it You may assure your self of my making remarks with that freedom which should allwise subsist between friends & with less care of exposing my own want of knowledge than of observing on every thing that I shall think may want correction.

*Cadwallader Colden to B. Franklin*

[Copy]

April 2<sup>d</sup> 1754

Any knowlege I have of the winds & other changes which happen in the atmosphere is so very defective that it does not deserve the name Neither have I receiv'd any Satisfaction from the attempts of others on this subject It deserves then your thoughts as a subject in which you may distinguish your self & be usefull

Your notion of some things conducting heat & cold better than others pleases me & I wish you may pursue the scent If I remember right D<sup>r</sup> Boerhaave in his Chymistry thinks that heat is propogated by the vibrations of a subtile elastic fluid dispersed through the atmosphere & through all bodies S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newtone says there are many Phenomena to prove the custome of such a fluid & this Opinion has my assent to it I shall only observe that it is essentially different from that which I call ether for ether properly speaking is neither a fluid

nor elastic It's power consists in reacting any action communicated to it with the same force it receives the action

I long to see you explication of Water spouts but I must tell you before hand that it will not be easy for you to convince me that the principal phenomena were not occasioned by a stream of Wind issueing with great force My eyes & ears both concurring to give me this sentiment I could have no more evidence than to feel the effects which I had no inclination to.

It surprises me a litle that wind generated by fermentation is new to you since it may be every day observed in fermenting liquor You know with what force fermenting liquors will burst the vessels which contains them if the generated wind have not vent & with what force it issues on giving it a small vent or by drawing the corks of a bottle D<sup>r</sup> Boerhaave says that the steam issueing from fermenting liquors receiv'd through a very small vent hole into the nose will kill as suddenly & certainly as lightning That air is generated by fermentation I think you'll find fully Proved on D<sup>r</sup> Hales' Analysis of the Air in his Vegetable Statics If you have not read this book you have a new pleasure to come

The Solution you give to the objection I made from the contrary winds blowing from the opposite sides of the mountains from their being like eddies does not satisfy me because the extent of these winds is by far too large to be occasioned by an eddy It is 40 miles from New York to our Mountains through which Hudson's river passes The river runs twelve miles in the mountains & from the North side of the Mountains it is about 90 miles to Albany I have my self been on board a Vessel more than once when We have had a strong Northerly wind against us all the Way from New York for 2 or 3 days We have met Vessels from Albany who assured us that on the other side of the Mountains they had at the same time a strong continued southerly Wind against them & this frequently happens

I have frequently seen both on the river in places



where there could be no eddy winds & in the open sea two vessels sailing with contrary winds within half a mile of each other but this happens only in easy winds & generally calm in other places near these winds

You have no doubt frequently observed that when a single cloud passes from which a violent gust of Wind issues but of no great extent I have observed such a gust make a lane through the woods of some miles in length by laying the trees flat to the ground & not above eight or ten chains in breadth Tho the violence of the Wind be in the same direction in which the cloud moves & proceeds it yet Wind issues from all sides of it so that supposing the cloud move South easterly those on the Northeast side of it feel a South west wind & others on the Southwest side a Northeast And where the cloud passes over we frequently have a Southeast wind from the hinder part of it but none violent except the wind in the direction in which the cloud moves To shew what it is which prevents the Wind from issueing out equally on all sides is not an easy problem to me & I shall not attempt to solve it but when you shall shew what it is which restrains the Electrical fluid from spreading it self into the air surrounding it when it rushes with great violence through the air along or in the conductor for a great extent in length then I may hope to explain the other problem & remove the difficulty we have in conceiving it

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*From B. Franklin.*

April 18<sup>th</sup> 1754

Since September last, having been abroad on two long Journeys, and otherwise much engag'd, I have made but few Observations on the *positive* and *negative* state of Electricity in the Clouds. But M<sup>r</sup> Kinnersley kept his Rod and Bells in good Order, and has made many. Once this Winter the Bells rang a long time during a fall

of Snow, tho' no Thunder was heard nor Lightning seen. Sometimes the Flashes and Cracks of the Electric Matter between Bell and Bell were so large and loud, as to be heard all over the House. But by all his Observations the Clouds were constantly in a negative State, till about Six Weeks ago, when he found them once to Change in a few Minutes from the negative to the Positive. About a fortnight after that, he made another Observation of the same kind. And last Monday afternoon, the Wind blowing hard at S.E. and veering round to N.E. with many thick driving Clouds, there were 5 or 6 successive changes Change. Beside the Methods mentioned in my Paper from negative to positive, and from positive to negative the Bells stopping a minute or two between every of September last, of discovering the electrical state of the Clouds, the following may be used: When your Bells are ringing, pass a rubb'd Tube by the Edge of the Bell connected with your Pointed Rod: If the Cloud is then in a negative State, the Ringing will stop, if in a positive State it will continue, and perhaps be quicker. Or suspend a very small Cork Ball by a fine Silk Thread; so that it may hang close to the Edge of the Rod-Bell: Then whenever the Bell is electrified whether positively or negatively the little Ball will be repell'd, and continue at some distance from the Bell. Have ready a round-headed Glass Stopper of a Decanter, rubb it on your side till it is electrified, then present it to the Cork Ball. If the Electricity in the Ball is positive it will be repell'd from the Glass Stopper as well as from the Bell. If negative it will flye to the stopper. These are M<sup>r</sup> Kinnersley's Methods.

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK May 9<sup>th</sup> [June ?] 1754

Dear Sir

I communicated yours of May 16<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and my Answers to M<sup>r</sup> Pownal M<sup>r</sup> Peeters and M<sup>r</sup> Franklin

Before I communicated them to M<sup>r</sup> Pownal, he had thought of forewith building one Vessel of force and sundry small Vessels to attend her, to prevent the boarding of the larger by Cannoes & Periagoes upon Lake Ontario and on the many good Consequences of that scheme when I told him you had thought on nearly the same thing, which introduced the communicating them to him

I had some conversation with M<sup>r</sup> Franklin & M<sup>r</sup> Peeters as to the Uniting the Colonies, and the Difficulties thereof by effecting our liberties on the one hand, or being ineffectual on the other. Whereon M<sup>r</sup> Franklin promised to set down some hints of a scheme that he thought might do which accordingly he sent to me to be transmitted to you and it's inclosed

To me it seems extreamly well digested, & at first sight avoids many difficulties that had occur'd to me

Some difficulties still remain—For Example there cannot be found men tolerably skilled in Warlike Affairs to be chosen for the Grand Council, and there's danger in communicating to them the schemes to be put in execution for fear of a discovery to the Enemy Whether this may not be in some measure reminded by a Council of state of a few persons to be chosen by the Grand Council at their stated meetings which Council of state to be allways attending the Gov<sup>r</sup> General, & with him to digest before hand all matters to be laid before the next Grand Council, and only the General but not the particular plans of operation

That the Gov<sup>r</sup> General & that Council of state issue the Orders for the payment of Monies so far as the Grand Council have before hand agreed may be issued for any General plan to be executed—That the Gov<sup>r</sup> General and Council of State at every meeting of the Grand Council Lay before them their Accounts and Transactions since the last meeting—at least so much of their Transactions as is safe to be made Publick—This Council of state to be something like that of the United provinces, and the Grand Council to resemble the States General That the



Capacity & ability of the persons to be chosen of the Council of state & Grand Council be their only Qualifications whether members of the respective bodies that chuse them or not—That the Grand Council with the Govr Generall have power to encrease but not to decrease the Duties laid by Act of Parliament And have power to issue bills of Credit on Emergencies to be Sunk by the encreas'd funds bearing a small interest but not to be Tenders—I am

Dear Sir

Your most Obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

Short hints towards a scheme for uniting the Northern Colonies

A Governour General

To be appointed by the King

To be a Military man

To have a Salary from the Crown

To have a negation on all acts of the Grand Council and carry in execution what ever is agreed on by him & that Council

Grand Council

One member to be chosen by the Assembly of each of the smaller Colonies & two or more by each of the larger, in proportion to the Sums they pay Yearly into the General Treasury

Members Pay

—Shilling sterling per Diem Leaving their sitting & mileage for Travelling Expences

Place & Time of meeting

To meet — times in every Year, at the Capital of each Colony in Course, unless particular circumstances & emergencies require more frequent meetings & alterations in the Course, of places, The Governour General to Judge of those circumstances &c &c call by his Writts

General Treasury

Its Fund, an Excise on Strong Liquors pretty equally

drank in the Colonies or Duty on Liquor imported—or  
— shillings on each Licence of Publick House or Excise  
on Superfluities as Tea &c &c—all which would pay in  
some proportion to the present wealth of each Colony,  
and encrease as that wealth encreases, & prevent disputes  
about the Inequality of Quotas To be Collected in each  
Colony, & Lodged in their Treasury to be ready for  
the payment of Orders issuing from the Governour  
General and Grand Council jointly

Duty & power of the Governour General & Grand  
Council

To order all Indian Treaties

make all Indian purchases not within proprietary  
Grants make & support new settlements by building  
Forts, raising and paying Soldiers to Garrison the  
Forts, defend the frontiers and annoy the Ennemy—  
equip Grand Vessels to scour the Coasts from Privateers  
in time of war, & protect the Trade

and every thing that shall be found necessary for the  
defence & support of the Colonies in General, & en-  
creasing & extending their settlements &c

For the Expence they may draw on the fund in the  
Treasury of any Colony

Manner of forming this Unison

The scheme being first well considered corrected & im-  
proved by the Commissioners at Albany, to be sent  
home, and an Act of Parliament obtain'd for estab-  
lishing it—

N YORK June 8. 1754

Mr Alexander is requested to peruse these Hints &  
make such remarks in correcting or Improving the  
Scheme, & send the Paper with such remarks to Dr  
Colden for his sentiments who is desired to forward the  
whole to Albany to their

Very humble Servant

B: FRANKLIN

*From Cadwallader Colden to P. Collinson.*COLDENHAM May 28<sup>th</sup> 1754Dear S<sup>r</sup>

Your favour of the 10<sup>th</sup> of March surprised me by finding that you had a copy of a letter which I wrote last fall or beginning of Winter to M<sup>r</sup> Franklin on Water Spouts because I did not write it with any thoughts that it would have gon farther than for his private perusal But since you take notice of it as a Novelty which destroys the commonly received opinion You lay me under some necessity of adding something more to it As to the facts there related they are certainly true as far as I can trust my eyes & my ears I did at the time commit the account of what I saw to writing but it is so long since that these with several other observations made about that time are lost or perhaps some one of my friends got the perusal of them & has not restored them But the Appearance made so strong an impression upon me that I dare trust to my memory even at this distance of time & perhaps few who were curious enough to observe this phenomenon without being prejudiced by received opinions, if any, have had an opportunity of Viewing a Water Spout so near them as I did this, without some injury from it: & indeed the Master & Saylor were more anxious from the danger of its approach in preparing against the danger than in observing it accurately as I did. I saw several others in the same voyage at a greater distance & from all of them I am as fully convinced as I can be of any thing from my senses that the common opinion of sucking up the Sea Water is false If the Water had been sucked up there must have been a rising in the Sea directly under the point of the spout whereas there was a hollow in the Sea which I distinctly saw and a spray rising round the hollow as happens by the force of wind from the pipe of a pair of bellows The avoiding the danger by firing a shot through the pipe which you mention as an objection confirms



rather than weakens what I say by giving an horizontal vent to the Wind by which it goes over the ship & does not strike If you consider the particulars in the description of the spouts which I saw as I wrote them to Mr Franklin in that & in a subsequent letter you will be convinced that the spout was not formed by sucking water I would not have it thought that in my opinion never any great quantity of rain or water falls from these clouds On the contrary I think that after the fermentation in the clouds which supports them in the air & generates the Wind is lessened or ceases then they may fall in prodigious pouring showers but not confined to the Diameter of two or three yards as the wind from the Spout is the rain I believe never or seldom falls at the time when the spout is seen As the Water does not fall at the time or in the place where the Spout is observed but afterwards & at distances from that place If the Clouds sucked up the Sea Water when it fell again it must at least be brackish or if the water were divested of its salt in the clouds the salt must fall down again somewhere to the Sea or the Land I cannot conceive how the sucking up of ice Water can divest it of its saline quality Salt water I think was never observed to come from the Clouds & some of them fall in pouring rains upon the land Mr Franklin tells me that an other Gentleman was of the same opinion with me of wind issuing from the Water Spout tho' neither of us knew of the others opinion & I am still ignorant of the facts on which he formed his opinion

I am glad the opuntia came in good order The leaf of the Saracena was put in with the Moss on purpose as it might be that you had not seen it I took up at that time some of the plants of the Saracena & set them in my Garden & tho' they seem still to retain some life yet they do not grow & I suspect they will not grow in a Garden soil because it grows among a thick moss & its roots do not reach to any part of the soil but seem to take their nourishment from the moss & from water almost allwise contained within the hollow of the leaf However

I shall send you some plants in the fall of the Year in the Moss wherein they grow

You tell me nothing of Dr Fothergills receiving the account of the throat distemper which you desired of me for him & I inclosed to you Probably it is a subject on which you are silent because you think it will give me no pleasure but I really have a pleasure in discovering truth even when thereby I discover my own errors

I am much obliged to you for telling me so candidly the opinion intertained of my Principles in Physiology & yet it is my fate still to remain strongly possessed with the Opinion of the truth of them & they make the same impression on my mind which the truth of the clearest conceptions do & while I do not perceive the mistake I cannot avoid continueing of the same opinion & of thinking that I have not been able to convey to others the same conceptions which I have myself I am fond to believe that my thoughts being entirely new are as to their reception in some manner similar to the new conceptions which Sr Isaac Newton formed of Light & colours He found it very difficult to convey his Ideas to others & they met at first with such strong opposition from men the most distinguished for their learning at that time that had he not obtained a Character on the Learned world before the publication of that book it could not so soon have been generally received & to this day many cannot conceive that a composition of all colours can produce a perfect white or that colours are not in bodies themselves but in the light of the Sun. I have from the beginning been aware of the difficulties an obscure person living in an obscure corner of the Earth must meet with on so great an attempt as to establish new principles in Physiology On consideration of these difficulties I now wish that the papers on that subject I sent lately & desired to be published may not be printed But I propose to send to you further illustration of my principles interfoliated with the printed copy & some corrections in the original to be submitted to the examination of some of your friends whose Judge-

ment I can rely on & not to be printed unless it be thought by them to deserve to be made publick I hope to have this don to go by the fall ships. A principal objection so far as I can learn is to the astronomical part as being thought contrary to what S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton has demonstrated I shall inclose a paper in answer to this objection which please show to your friends who are judges in that point & I beg of them to shew wherein I mistake if I do so which they may do in a few words. I shall not send any thing on the astronomical part till I receive an answer to this I hope to be able to send in the fall what I formerly promised to shew the cohesion of the parts of bodies from my Principles & to explain the Phenomena of Light & Colours in S<sup>r</sup> Isaac's optics from the same principles both which contain new thoughts & I expect will strongly confirm the truth of the Principles which I attempt to establish. The Justice don to M<sup>r</sup> Franklin's merit must encourage all lovers of Physiology & demonstrates the impartiality of the royal Society

The bad opinion which it seems is intertaind of M<sup>r</sup> Clinton's administration may in some measure affect me as it has been thought that he acted by my advice what are cried out against as arbitrary acts are strongly exaggerated It is not proper to enter on particulars many things were don without my knowledge & others contrary to my advice but I have a full Justification of my conduct in a Letter which the Earl of Halifax did me the honour to write to me dated the 17<sup>th</sup> of May last year. He had before him all that was said on both sides & was well informed from the minutes of Council of the part which I acted I have no interest with him either by personal knowledge or by any friend He therefor formed his Judgement freed from any prejudice of that kind. I wrote to him a few days since by a sloop of war which carries S<sup>r</sup> Danvers Osborns corps Please to know his Lord<sup>ps</sup> sentiments when ever it shall be convenient & if you do not encourage me by what you shall learn from him I shall not hereafter give you any trouble of this kind only desire to know whether he has received my last letter dated in this month



*Cadwallader Colden to ———*

[Copy]

S<sup>r</sup>

I have intertained an opinion since I received the observation of the Sun in the year 1749 from L<sup>d</sup> Macclesfield's observatory which may if true be of some consequence in astronomy It seems to me evident from these observations whether the Sun's place be calculated by Dr Halleys Tables or in a new method which I use That the Obliquity of the Ecliptic is less at either Solstice than at the Equinox & that it is less at the Winter Solstice then at the Summer Now S<sup>r</sup> I beg the favour of you to let me know D<sup>r</sup> Bradleys opinion of this because he can be better assured from his observations of the fixed stars than perhaps any other can be whether there be any real foundation for this opinion Any apparent Motion in the fixed stars excepting of that from the rotation of the Earth can only arise from the Progressive motion of Light or from some change in the position of the Earth's axis or from the Refraction of Light All these produce different effects in different stars according to their several positions & may sometimes unite in the same effect at other times the one may lessen or destroy the effects of the other & it requires great skill in Astronomy to Judge from which of these jointly or severally any apparent motion of the fixed stars arise. No man is more capable of removing this doubt than D<sup>r</sup> Bradley is I shall be exceedingly obliged to him if he will favour me with his opinion

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*Cadwallader Colden to B. Franklin*

Remarks on short hints towards a Scheme for uniting  
the Northern Colonies

Gov<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>

It seems agreed on all hands that something is necessary to be don for uniting the Colonies in their mutual

defence & it seems to be likewise agreed that it can only be don effectually by Act of Parliament. However for this reason I suppose that the necessary funds for carrying it into execution in pursuance of the ends proposed by it cannot be otherwise obtained. If it were thought that the Assemblies of the several Colonies may agree to laying the same duties & apply them to the general defence & security of all the Colonies no need of an act of Parliament. Qr. which best for the Colonies by Parliament or by the several Assemblies

The Kings Ministers so long since as the year -23 or -24 had thoughts of sending over a Gov<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> of all the Colonies & the Earl of Stairs was proposed as a fit Person. It is probable the want of a suitable support of the Dignity of that office prevented that scheme's being carried into execution & that the Ministry & People of England think that this charge ought to be born by the Colonies

#### Grand Council

Qr. Is the Grand Council with the Gov<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> to have a Legislative Authority? If only an executive power objections may be made to their being elective. It would be in a great measure a change of the constitution to which I suspect the Crown will not consent. We see the inconveniencies attending the present constitution & remedies may be found without changeing it but we cannot foresee what may be the consequences of a change in it. If the Grand Council be elected for a short time steady measures cannot be pursued. If elected for a long time & not removeable by the Croun they may become dangerous. Are they to have a negative on the Acts of the Gov<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>? It is to be considered that England will keep their Colonies as far as they can dependent on them & this view is to be preserved in all schemes to which the Kings consent is necessary

#### Place &c Time of Meeting

It may be thought dangerous to have fixed meetings of the Grand Council of all the Colonies at certain times & places. It is a Privilege which the Parliament has not

nor the Privy Council & may be thought destructive of the Constitution

#### General Treasury

Some estimate ought to be made of the Produce which may be reasonably expected from the funds proposed to be raised by Duties on Liquors &c to see whether it will be sufficient for the ends proposed This I think may be done from the Custom houses in the most considerable places for Trade in the Colonies

#### Manner of forming the Union

No doubt any private person may in a proper manner make any proposals which he thinks for the public benefite but if they are to be made by the Commissioners of the Several Colonies who now meet at Albany it may be presumed that they speak the sense of their constituents What authority have they to do this? I know of none from either the Council or Assembly of New York However these things may be properly talkt of on conversation among the Commissioners for further information & in order to induce the several assemblies to give proper powers to Commiss<sup>rs</sup> to meet afterwards for these purposes

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COLDENHAM June 20<sup>th</sup> 1754

S<sup>r</sup>

I inclose the papers which I received from M<sup>r</sup> Alexander to be conveyed to you by the first opportunity to Albany You will find that I make remarks with that freedom which I believe you expect from me that in case you find any weight in any of them you may make your scheme more perfect by avoiding reasonable exceptions to it & have the pleasure of adding this to many other well received schemes which you have formed for the benefite of your country I hope on your return from Albany you may have time to stop a day or two at my house as you seldom can miss a passage from hence to New York if it should be inconvenient for your sloop to wait so long By this you will give a very great pleasure to

To BENJ<sup>n</sup> FRANKLIN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
at Albany



*Convention for the adoption of a Plan of a Union of the Colonies 1754*

At a Meeting in the Court House in Albany Weddensday the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1754 A.M.

Present

<p>All the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> for Massachus<sup>ts</sup> Bay — all from N Hampshire, except W Sherburn—all the Comm<sup>rs</sup> for Connect<sup>t</sup> — The Comm<sup>rs</sup> for Rhode Island All the Comm<sup>rs</sup> for Pensilvania and all the Comm<sup>rs</sup> for Maryl<sup>d</sup></p>	}	<p>Jos Murray and W<sup>m</sup> Smith Esqrs of the Council of New York</p>
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Mr Franklin reported the Draft of a New Form of a plan of Union agreeable to the Determination of Yesterday, which was read Paragraph by Paragraph, and Debated, and the further Consideration of it deferred to the afternoon

Adj<sup>d</sup> to Three of the Clock this afternoon

At a Meeting on Weddensday the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1754  
P.M.

Present

<p>His Honnour the Lieut Gov<sup>r</sup> and the four Gent<sup>n</sup> of the Council of New York</p>	}
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And

<p>All the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> for the respec- tive Gov<sup>ts</sup> —</p>	}
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The Consideration of the Plan of a Union, was resumed, which Plan is as follows viz

Plan of a proposed Union of the Several Colonies of Massachussetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jerseys, Pensilvania, Maryland, Virginia, North & South Carolina, for their Mutual Defence and Security, and for extending the Brittish Settlements in North America

That humble Application be made for an Act of the Parliament of Great Brittain, by virtue of which one General Government may be formed in America, including all the said Colonies, within and under which Government each Colony may retain its present Constitution except in the Particulars wherein a Change may be directed by the said Act, as hereafter follows—

PRESIDENT GEN<sup>L</sup>  
& GRAND COUCIL

That the said General Government be administred by a President General to be appointed and supported by the Crown and a Grand Council to be chosen by the Representatives of the People of the Several Colonies, met in their respective Assemblies

ELECTION OF  
MEMBERS

That within — Months after the pasing Such Act, the House of Representatives in the Several Assemblies that happen to be sitting within that time, or that shall be Specialy for that purpose conven'd may and shall Choose Members for the Grand Council, in the following proportions that is to say

Massachusets .....	7
New Hampshire .....	2
Connecticut .....	5
Rhode Island .....	2
New York .....	4
New Jerseys .....	3
Pensilvania .....	6
Maryland .....	4
Virginia .....	7
North Carolina .....	4
South Carolina .....	4

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48

PLACE OF FIRST  
MEETING

Who shall meet for the first time at the City of Philadelphia, in Pensilvania being called by the President General as soon as Conveniently may be after his appointment

NEW ELECTION      That there shall be a New Election of Members for the Grand Council every three years; and on the Death or resignation of any Member, his place shall be Supplied by a New choice at the Next Sitting of the Assembly of the Colony he represented

PROPORTION OF MEMBERS AFTER FIRST 3 YEARS      That after the first three Years when the proportion of Money arising out of each Colony to the general Treasury can be known, the Number of Members to be chosen for each Colony shall from time to time in all Ensuing Elections be regulated by that proportion [Yet so, as that the number to be chosen by any one Province be not more then Seven nor less than two]

MEETINGS OF GRAND COUNCIL AND CALL      That the Grand Council shall meet once in every Year and oftener if Occassion require, at Such time and place as they shall adjourn to at the last proceeding Meeting, or as they shall be called to meet at by the President General on any Emergency, he having first obtained in writing the Consent of Seven of the Members to such call and Send due and timely Notice to the whole

CONTINUANCE      That the Grand Council have Power to chose their speaker, and shall neither be dissolved, prorogued, nor continued Sitting longer than Six Weeks at one time, without their own Consent, or the Special command of the Crown

MEMBERS ALLOWANCE      That the Members of the Grand Council shall be allowed for their Service Ten Shillings Sterling per Diem during their Sessions and Journeys to and from the place of Meeting; twenty Miles to be reckoned a Days Journey

ASSENT OF PRESID<sup>T</sup> GENERAL & HIS DUTY      That the Assent of the President General be requisite to all Acts of the Grand Council And that it be his Office and Duty to cause them to be carried into Execution



POWER OF PRESID<sup>T</sup>  
GEN<sup>L</sup> & GRAND  
COUNCIL TREATIES  
PEACE & WAR IN-  
DIAN TRADE

That the president General, with the Advice of the Grand Council, hold or direct all Indian Treaties in which the General Interest or welfare of the Colonies may be concerned; and make Peace or declare war with Indian Nations. That they make Such Laws as they Judge necessary for regulating all Indian Trade.

INDIAN PUR-  
CHASES

That they make all purchases from the Indians for the Crown, of Lands now not within the bounds of particular Colonies or that shall not be within their bounds when some of them are reduced to more convenient Dimensions—That they make New Settlements

NEW SETTLE-  
MENTS

on Such purchases, by granting Lands in the King's Name, reserving a Quit rent to the Crown for the use of the General Treasury.

LAWS TO GOVERN  
THEM

That they make Laws for regulating and governing such new Settlements till the Crown shall think fit to form them into particular Governments—

RAISE SOLDIERS &  
EQUIP VESSELS

That they raise and pay Soldiers and build Forts for the Defence of any of the Colonies and Equip Vessels of Force to guard the Coast and protect the Trade on the Ocean Lakes, or great Rivers:

NOT TO IMPRESS  
its Legislature

But they shall not impress Men in any Colony without the Consent of

POWER TO MAKE  
LAWS—LAY  
DUTIES &c.

That for these purposes they have power to make laws and lay and levy such general Duties, Imports or Taxes as to them shall appear most equal and Just, considering the ability and other Circumstances of the Inhabitants in the Several Colonies and such as may be collected with the least Inconvenience to the People, rather discouraging Luxury, than loading Industry with unnecessary Burthens

GEN <sup>L</sup> TREASURER & PARTICULAR TREASURER	That they may appoint a general Treasurer & a particular Treasurer in each Government when Necessary and from time to time may order the Sums in the Treasuries of Each Government into the General Treasury, or draw on them for Special payments as they find most Convenient. Yet no money to Issue
MONEY HOW TO ISSUE	but by Joint Orders of the President Gen <sup>l</sup> and grand Council, except where Sums have been appropriated to particular purposes, and the president General is previously empower'd by an Act to draw for Such Sums
ACCOUNTS	That the general Accounts shall be Yearly Settled and reported to the sveral Assemblies
QUORUM	That a Quorum of the Grand Council, empower'd to act with the president General, do consist of 25 members, among whom there shall be one or more from a Majority of the Colonies
LAWS TO BE TRANSMITTED	That the Laws made by them for the purposes aforesaid shall not be repugnant, but as near as may be agreeable to the Laws of England, and shall be transmitted to the King in Council for approbation, as soon as may be after their passing and if not disapproved within three Years after Presentation to remain in force
DEATH OF THE PRESID <sup>T</sup> GENERAL	That in Case of the Death of the President General, the Speaker of the Grand Council for the time being shall Succeed, and be vested with the same powers and authorities to continue till the Kings pleasure be known
OFFICERS HOW APPOINTED	That all Military Commission Officers, wether for Land or Sea Service to Act under this General Constitution, shall be nominated by the President General, but the Aprobation of the grand Council is to be obtained before they receive their Commissions and all Civil Officers, are to be Nominated by the grand Council, and to receive the President General's Approbation before they Officiate

VACANCIES HOW SUPPLIEE But in case of Vacancy by Death or removal of any Officer civil or Military, under this constitution the Gov<sup>r</sup> of the Province in which Such Vacancy happens, may appoint till the pleasure of the President Gen<sup>l</sup> and Grand Council can be known. That the particular Military as well as Civil Establishments in each Colony remain in their present State, this General constitution notwithstanding; and that on Sudden Emergencies any Colony may defend it Self, and lay the Acc<sup>ts</sup> of Expence thence arisen before the President General and Grand Council who may allow and order Payment of the same, as far as they Judge such Accounts just and reasonable

After Debate on the foregoing Plan  
Resolved

That the Commissioners from the several Governments be desired to lay the same before their respective Constituents for their Consideration; and that the Secretary to this Board transmit a Copy thereof with the Vote thereon to the Governor of each of the Colonies which have not sent their Commissioners to this Congress  
Copy from the Minutes

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*From Benjamin Franklin*

FROM YOUR LANDING, Friday Evening  
July 14, 1754

Dear Sir

I am very Sorry that our unexpected long Stay at Albany prevents my having the Pleasure of seeing you at this time. M<sup>r</sup> Peters, M<sup>r</sup> Norris & my self, with my Son; came at home here about 3 a Clock with Intent to get a Waggon or Horses to carry us to your House, and the Sloop was to wait for us till tomorrow Noon; but after many fruitless Attempts, Night coming on, we are obliged to go on board again. Did I not expect that M<sup>r</sup> Hunter

*ashme*



waits for me impatiently at N York, where he was to meet me the Beginning of this Month, I would let the Sloop proceed without me, and take my chance of a Passage some Days hence: But the last Letter I had from him, since I have been at Albany, lets me know, that he purpos'd to set out in a few Days from Annapolis where he was on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June: so he may have been at York some time.

Our long Detention at Albany was owing to the Indians not appearing punctually at the Time appointed, viz, the 14<sup>th</sup> of June: It was the 29<sup>th</sup> before so many were collected as to be publickly spoke to. And after all, nothing of much Importance was transacted with them: at least nothing equal to the Expence and Trouble of so many Colonies. The Commissioners agreed on a Plan of Union of 11 Colonies, viz, from N Hampshire to So. Carolina inclusive: the same with that of which I sent you the Hints, some few Particulars excepted. I will send you a Copy from NYork. I heartily wish we could have had your Presence & Assistance both in the Treaty & in forming the Plan. Your kind Letter & Notes, with M<sup>r</sup> Alexanders did not come to hand, till we had near finish'd. I put a Transcript on our whole Treaty & Transactions in my Pocket to show you, but shall not now have the Opportunity. I heartily wish the Union may be approv'd of by the Assemblies of the several Colonies, and confirm'd by the King & Parliament, with some Improvements that I think necessary, but could not get inserted in the Plan. When one has so many different People with different Opinions to deal with in a new Affair, one is oblig'd sometimes to give up some smaller Points in order to obtain greater.

With the greatest Esteem & Respect, I am, D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most hum<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Mr Penn, Mr Peters,  
Mr Norris & my Son,  
present their Respects  
& Service

B FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To The hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
Coldenham

*From Benjamin Franklin*

NEW YORK July 21, 1754

Dear Sir,

I wrote a Line to you from your Landing promising to send you a Copy of the Plan of Union which I now enclose

We had a great deal of Disputation about it almost every Article being contested by one or another; but at length we agreed on it pretty unanimously; and Copies are ordered for the several Governments: How they will relish it, or how it will be look'd on in England I know not. It is not altogether to my mind, but 'tis as I could get it; for the sake of obtaining generals you know one is sometimes oblig'd to give up particulars. I am, with the greatest Esteem & Respect, D<sup>r</sup> Sir,

Your most hum<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

PS. You will see by the enclos'd Pamphlet, that Measures are taking in England for anglifying our Germans. The Society have appointed our Governor, M<sup>r</sup> Allen M<sup>r</sup> Peters, my self, & some others Commissions for executing their Plan in Pensilvania.

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*From James Alexander*

NEW YORK July 26<sup>th</sup> 1754

Dear Sir

I have the favour of yours of the 24<sup>th</sup> I have for some years been thinking it was time for me to give over the thoughts of Entering into any business, wherfore cannot blame you who have more reason from age to have the same way of thinking, if you wont be named in Gilberts [Burnet] Letter of Attorney, I have thoughts of nameing

your Son Cadwallader w<sup>t</sup> me & my son in it, & doubt not you'll prevail with your Son to accept, as I hope I shall with mine—the part of renewing the patent I hope I may be able to Effect, as to Compleating the Sale I hope our Sons will take the trouble of that to Serve the Son of our old friend

I am sorry you mist Seeing M<sup>r</sup> franklin & M<sup>r</sup> Peters who had an entire Coppy of the minutes of proceedings of the Commissioners at Albany Consisting of 93 folio pages, which they favour'd me with the perusal of, and gave me Leave to take a Coppy of the representation of the State of the Colony's, with the plan of union as they stand there agreed to nemine Contradicente; which inclosed I send for your peruseal & to take a Coppy of, if you think proper, which I beg you'll then Send me back—I saw nothing else material in their whole proceedings, and am very well pleased they have agreed on those two things, which I hope may prevail on King & Parliament either in that or some better way to unite the force of the Colonies, and that at the first meeting of parliament for a Delay of it may be fatal, as there's nothing to hinder the french at this very time to make a Conquest of the Colonies, and put it then out of our power to hurt them by our intended union

there's no more care taken of the 5 nations until another Congress than used to be, they Strongly called for their affairs being put in Coll Johnston's hands, but were answered they must be Content w<sup>t</sup> the Comm<sup>rs</sup> of Ind<sup>n</sup> affairs for one other year

I believe the Comm<sup>rs</sup> Endeavours is more to Encourage the trade to Canada than in Secureing the Six nations—an Evident mark of it is, that they had not (when his honour came to the administration) so much as notified that they had Such a Commission to the five nations, nor given them any invitation to Correspond, with them, tho that was many months after they had accepted the Commission, when a positive order was Sent to them by his honours Council to notifie & invite

Your Son Communicated to me the Memorial which



was very well drawn, & proper to be Laid before his honour & Council—our first Council was yesterday when the proceedings at Albany were Communicated, but not that memorial

I shall be glad to See your discovery of an other Equation, & the Corrections & further illustrations of what you formerly did W<sup>t</sup> the Explanation of the Phenomena in S<sup>r</sup> Isaacs Opticks

We had news from Ohio you'll See in the publick papers. it hastned the Pensilvania Comm<sup>rs</sup> from here, by Several days sooner than they intended, they are in hopes their assembly now will join heartyly in assisting Virginia—ours here is proposed to meet the third Tuesday of August to provide for our own Security at least, but doubt whether any thing will be done by reason of the late instruction—I am Dear Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To  
The honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Coldenham

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*From Peter Collinson*

LOND. July 30' 1754

My Dear Frind

I was uneasie in my Mind that your Solicitations meet with So little Success this Determined Mee to Wait on Lord Halifax & hear from his own Mouth

He received Mee in a Very affable Manner & after He had Heard Mee revivd your request to his Memory—He answered Mee very friendly & told Mee He had received y<sup>r</sup> Letter was no Stranger to you or your Merrits & that He had a high Esteem & value for you Indeed like a Polite Courtier He Said So many Handsome Things of you that I will not discompose you by reciteing them

He Said it was a Little to be regretted that you Em-

barked with the Late Governor—but Said He, it might be well for the Governor—else he had gone greater Lengths

But at last He Assured Mee he had Laid your Case before Mr Pelham & He did not Doubt had He Lived, you would have obtained Some Gratuity—but now our Affairs are all under the Duke of New Castle & Seem Unsettled & Impossible for him to Conduct Two Houses—However He Said He would represent it to his Grace but at the Same time He Seem'd to think to no great purpose

However it may be prudent in you to thank Lord Halifax & thank him for his good opinion & beg a continuance of his Good Offices

I am now much Engaged So Shall Defer takeing any more notice the Acknowledging the Receipt of yours of May 28

and am with Cordial Respect & Esteem

Y<sup>r</sup> Sincere fr<sup>d</sup>

P COLLINSON

[Indorsed]

To

CADWAL COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
New York

*From Benjamin Franklin*

PHILAD<sup>a</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 30 1754

Dear Sir

I have now before me your Fav<sup>rs</sup> of July 23 and August 15<sup>th</sup>

I return Mr Pyke's Philosophia sacra. His Manner of Philosophizing is much out of my Way

I am now about to proceed on my Eastern Journey, but hope to be at home in the Winter, the best Season for Electrical Experiments, when I will gladly make any you desire; In the mean time should be glad you would communicate the Thoughts you mention, that I may consider them. If you please, direct them to me at Boston

There must, I think, be some Mistake in what you mention of my having sent M<sup>r</sup> Collinson the Paper you wrote me on Water spouts. I have the Original now by me, and cannot recollect that I ever copied it, or that I ever communicated the Contents of it to M<sup>r</sup> Collinson or any one. Indeed I have long had an Intention of sending him all I have wrote, and all I have receiv'd from others on that curious Subject, without mentioning Names; but it is not yet done

Our Assembly were not inclin'd to show any Approbation of the Plan of Union; yet I suppose they will take no Steps to oppose its being established by the Governm<sup>t</sup> at home. Popular Elections have their Inconveniences, in some Cases; but in Establishing new Forms of Government, we cannot always obtain what we may think the best; for the Prejudices of those concern'd, if they cannot be remov'd, must be in some Degree comply'd with—However, I am of Opinion, that when Troops are to be rais'd in America, the Officers appointed must be Men they know & approve, or the Levies will be made with more Difficulty and at much greater Expence.

It is not to be expected that a Quaker Assembly will establish any but Quaker Schools; nor will they ever agree to a Tax for Payment of any Clergy. It is intended by the Society that the Schoolmasters among the Germans shall teach English

I am glad the Representation is agreeable to your Sentiments. The Letter to Lord Halifax I Suppose your Son sends from New York

Since my Return I have received from Italy a Book in Quarto, entitled, *Dell' Ellettricismo artificiale e naturale, libri due, di Giambattista Beccaria de' CC. RR. delle Scuole pie.* printed at Turin, & dedicated to the King [torn] The Author professedly goes on [torn] he seems a Master of Method and has reduced to systematic Order the Scatter'd Experiments & Positions deliver'd in my Papers. At the End of the first Book, there is a Letter address'd to the Abbé Nollet, in which he answers



some of the Abbé's principal Objections. This Letter being translated into French, I send the Translation for your perusal, and will send the Italian Book itself by some future Opportunity if you desire it. It pleases me the more, in that I find the Author has been led by sundry Observations & Experiments, tho' different from mine, to the same strange Conclusion viz. That some Thunder Strokes are from the Earth up[wards.] In which I fear'd I should for some time have [seemed] singular.

With the greatest Esteem & Regard D<sup>r</sup> Sir,  
Your most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

B FRANKLIN

D<sup>r</sup> Colden.

Please to send me the French  
Piece <sup>at</sup> first Opportunity after  
you have perus'd it, directed to  
me at Boston

[Indorsed]

To  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
Cold

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*From Alexander Colden*

LONDON 5 Septem: 1754

Dear Uncle

The last letter I recevd from my Father he was complaining that it was a long time since he had the favour of a letter from you; it is true I had the pleasure of informing him of your health, by means of M<sup>r</sup> Collinsons advices; yet you cannot doubt but such advice would be more agreeable directly from your own hand, especially as you know our Scotch temper, and how anxious we generally are about the welfare of absent friends; as to my own particular affairs I am still in the same situation, & upon the whole have no reason to complain, I cannot boast of such success as some others have had; yet it has

been pretty good & I have at present a tolerable prospect of at least a comfortable and easy settlement; I have employed some of my leisure hours in examining your physical essays, though I cannot presume to lay before you the result of my observation [without] your express permission; not that I imagine you would [take umbrage or offence at another for scrupling to adopt your sentiments till he receives conviction of their truth; but so much of my time is really employed in business that I have not time to make such a strict examination as those who are blessed with more leisure; and I really find it so difficult to free my head from the thoughts & cares of business even in my vacant hours that it is not in my power to give such close attention as the subject requires; my observations must therefore of necessity need allowances which it would be presumption in me to take without an express grant. Please to give my respects to my Aunt & Cousins and be assured that to hear of your health & success in every shape will always be a sensible pleasure to

Dear Uncle

Your dutifull Nephew & Obed & hb<sup>le</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

ALEX. COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq  
at New York

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*Cadwallader Colden to Peter Collinson*

COLDENHAM Oct<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1754

Dear S<sup>r</sup>

I have your very kind letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> of July last. You appear in that letter so very solicitous for my Interest that I flatter my self the giving you once more some trouble on that account will not be displeasing to you tho' I am so much ashamed of my having again & again repeated this trouble that I had resolved to give you no more on that account however as you think it

prudent in me to write again to Lord Halifax it gives me hopes that you will once more take the trouble of waiting on him on my account It gives me great pleasure that his Lord<sup>p</sup> has repeated to you the agreeable things which he had before wrote me in his letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1753 At the same time I must tell you that it is very mortifying to me & certainly of no benefite to the public service to see men who have no merit to plead either from their past Services or their abilities preferr'd to lucrative offices while others who have served his Majesty many years without blame & even after their Services are acknowledged to find that in American affairs a mean application to some Domestic of a Minister of State is so frequently of more consequence than any other merit.

I am not a litle discomposed to find that his Lordship thinks it a litle to be regretted that I had embarked with the late Gov<sup>r</sup> As I had never given you any information on that Subject you could not make any answer to it in my favour & I am glad of this occasion to tell you somethinge which I hope will free you from some misapprehensions which before this I was apprehensive you might entertain to my prejudice on that account because I could not decently do it without some call to it

I had no particular connection with M<sup>r</sup> Clinton till after he received orders to raise forces for the Expedition then intended again Canada at which time I received a peremptory summons to attend the Council. He then complained to me that the persons in whom he had before that time confided had refused to continue their advice & that this was don with a view so far to distress him at that critical time as to make him think it convenient to part with his Gov<sup>t</sup> in favour of Admiral Warren who had made proposals to him for that purpose. He had received orders to ingage as many of the Indian nations as he could in the enterprise against Canada & was obliged to meet the Indians at Albany for that Purpose His former friends the Council excused themselves from



attending & it was thought that their declining to go was from an opinion that the Gov<sup>r</sup> would not succeed. However he did succeed & engaged a greater number of Indians to join us than any person at that time expected. This I take it raised the first spirit against me by their being disappointed by M<sup>r</sup> Clintons success After our return from Albany where I had passed above 3 months in a most disagreeable situation in a place where an epidemical disease prevaild & swept off great numbers & where we could not go without the fortifications to breath a litle free air without being in danger of being surprised by sculking parties of the French Indians I say after our return to New York when the Gov<sup>r</sup> was to meet his assembly I intreated him to regain if possible the assistance of his former friends & for that purpose he made at my request great condescensions but to no purpose After having passed the Sessions of Assembly where a popular party in opposition to the Gov<sup>r</sup> appeared with more intollerable insolence than was ever known (in this Province at least) I retired to my house in the Country The Gov<sup>r</sup> at my desire suffered me to remain retired & he resolved to submit to his former friends so things remained with litle satisfaction to himself while I remained at ease in the Country till he received a second order to meet the Indians at which Gov<sup>r</sup> Shirley was to assist. The Gov<sup>r</sup> then insisted strongly on my attending him to Albany which in duty I could not refuse when insisted on & to which I the more readily agreed by reason of M<sup>r</sup> Shirley's assistance. While we were at Albany the Situation of the public affairs in this Province were frequently the topics of Discourse with M<sup>r</sup> Shirley & at both the Gov<sup>rs</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Shirleys desire I Was persuaded to return to New York with them. At that time M<sup>r</sup> Shirley concerted with M<sup>r</sup> Clinton a plan for M<sup>r</sup> Clinton's future conduct in his administration in the execution of which M<sup>r</sup> Shirley insisted that it was absolutely necessary for me to assist M<sup>r</sup> Clinton I was so diffident & unwilling to embarque again that I made it a condition that M<sup>r</sup> Shirley should form the Gov<sup>rs</sup> speech

which he was to make to the Assembly & likewise to form a representation of the state of affairs in this Province to his Majesty's Ministers I was unwillingly drawn into this new contest by M<sup>r</sup> Shirley's telling me that he was soon to go to England when he would not be wanting to represent in a true light the use I had been off in his Majesty's service & in supporting the Constitution of Government against the encroachments that were made on his Majesty's undoubted Rights & Authority & by his strong assurances that he would not fail in representing my services so strongly as must turn out to my private advantage These things I can prove by several letters which passed between Gov<sup>r</sup> Shirley & me from this time till he embarked for England. M<sup>r</sup> Clinton no doubt will confirm what I now write

The principal things which have been laid to M<sup>r</sup> Clinton's charge were the payment of the forces which were levied on the Expedition I can prove by a writing under M<sup>r</sup> Clintons hand that he acted in this contrary to my advice & that if he had followed my advice it would not have been in the power of any man to make a just objection to his accounts He has likewise been blamed for selling of offices I was so openly against this in discouraging such explanations that it was never insinuated against me by those who had no friendship for me. M<sup>r</sup> Clinton as some recompense for my services gave my third son the office of Clerk of the peace for the City & County of Albany & it is well known few of the Province were more capable of executing that office in the little time he lived he brought that office into much better regulations then it ever had been He died in little more than a year after he received it I desired the office for another The answer was that it was engaged & afterwards it was put to a kind of open Vendue You may see how little I am capable of making court in the most lucrative way Indeed my Talents do not lye in the Arts of makeing money for which my children only have reason to blame me & therefore I wish in my old age to make up my neglects in my younger for their benefite

You will perceive that tho' the subject of this letter might have come in properly in discourse in answer to something which Lord Halifax said to you it is not proper for a letter to a minister of state & as I have nothing new to write to him on this subject which I think can be proper I must beg of you to wait on him once more with my most humble thanks for his good opinion of me now that you are better instructed in some things than you was I expect that he has received two letters from me since you saw him in which I gave him some information which I think may be of public use Perhaps this may give me some more favour with him I am known & my conduct is known to some of the most considerable persons in every English colony on the main & the encouragement or discouragement I meet with will have its weight with others for their future conduct in public affairs. After this I shall give you no more trouble on this subject unless you encourage me to do it

---

*From Alexander Colden*

Thursday Evening Oct. 6th.

D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

Receiving no dispatches for the Post I was afraid they had forgot that the Post was detained and went up to the Fort where I met with Major Robinson He told me that his Lordship had considered that it would be sometime before the Comp<sup>y</sup> that was ordered down could get to the Frontiers and for that reason a Comp<sup>y</sup> of Penys Regt who are now makeing the road were ordered to Cross the River imediately to Land at New Windsor and to March across the Country to Rochester which it seems is to be the head Quarters That the L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> was to write to Coll Ellison and Coll Clinton to assist these men in their March and that he hoped all the Inhabitants would give them all the Assistance in their Power as they were Strangers to the Country and would not know one foot



of the Way or where that Part of the Country Lay I told the Major I doubted not but every one would be as assisting to them as they could. I likewise mentioned to Major Robinson that I was of Opinion this Compy of Penys would be better Quarter'd at Goshen where was a Country Village and within 3 or 4 miles of the place where the late mischief was done That Rochester was near 30 miles from thence The Major on this went into the room where his Lordship was drinking Oliver came out with him We had some talk together Oliver said Rochester was the Most Proper Place. I told him I conceived they would be of little Service to that part of the Country where the late Mischief was done if Posted at Rochester unless Partys were order'd out Constanly to Patrole along the road from thence to Minisink, that he said he thought could not be well done and yet he Insisted that it was more Proper to order this Compy to Rochester rather then Goshen. One word you may be assured from him had more weight than all I could Say. Oliver said he hoped I would write to my Brother to assist them in their March all he could I told him there was no question but that he and every one in the Country would. Its like you may See the Officer that Commands and perhaps his orders may be discretional for him to post his Compy so as to be of the most Service for the Security of the frontiers when he knows the Situation of the Country. It may be of some Service that you See the officer as soon as possible. I doubt not but both you and my Br will take particular care that these men be put to no difficulties for Carriage &c so that they may have no room to Complain. If you are of opinion that the men's being Posted at Rochester will not be of that Service that they would be if posted at Goshen or along the Wallkill I am persuaded upon the thing being properly represented to my Lord you will have more men order'd or these Men posted in such places as will most tend to the Security of y<sup>r</sup> part of the country in that case I would advise y<sup>r</sup> writting your opinion freely to his Lordship You'll know whether he be still here at Alb<sup>y</sup> its said he Sets out for

Albany next Sunday by water perhaps you may be able if you chuse to write to him to get y<sup>r</sup> letter Sent on board as he passes. A letter may have more weight when he has not some about him that are now constantly at his Elbow and likes nothing but what comes from themselves and act only in order to make them Popular with those they are fond of Courting in order to keep up their Interest I fear you'll think me too Prolix but I hope you'll readily excuse it. There is nothing I have so much at Heart at present as to have something done for y<sup>r</sup> Safety in the Country Seeing I can have no hopes that you will remove out of it and therefore I am for takeing every step that Occurs to me that will promote it

I am

D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

Y<sup>r</sup> most Obed<sup>t</sup> & Dutifull Son

ALEX COLDEN

8 Clock at Night

this Moment Major Robertson brought me the Orders to Gen<sup>l</sup> Abercrombie to Send Thodeys Compy Down and to L<sup>t</sup> Cole Donaldson to Send a Detachment from Penys Regt and I have sent for the Post rider to dispatch them.

---

*From Alexander Garden*

PHILADELPHIA 4 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1754

H<sup>rd</sup> Sir

I can't help, once before Leaving Philadelphia, begging permission to intrude on a Philosophic hour in troubling you with the Perusall of a few Lines according to my promise when I had the pleasure of seeing you at New York. Since my leaving that place I have met w<sup>t</sup> very Little new in the Botanic way unless Your ac-

quaintance Bartram, who is what he is & whose acquaintance alone makes amends for other disappointments in that way. I first waited of him with Gov<sup>r</sup> Tinker & D<sup>r</sup> Bond whom he received w<sup>t</sup> so much ease, Gaiety & happy Alacrity, & invited to dine with so much rural vivacity, that every one were agreeably pleased & surprised. Unluckily Gov<sup>r</sup> Tinker had engaged some Company to be w<sup>t</sup> him that Day Else we should have taken part of his Botanic treat, which he seems fully designed to have some day this week—One Day he Dragged me out of town & Entertain'd me so agreeably with some Elevated Botanicall thoughts, on oaks, Firs, Rocks &c that I forgot I was hungry till we Landed in his house about four Miles from Town, There was no parting with him for two Days, During which time I breakfasted, Dined & Supped Sleep't & was regaled on Botany & Minerology, in which he has some excellent Notions & grand thoughts. His garden is a perfect portraiture of himself, here you meet w<sup>t</sup> a row of rare plants almost covered over w<sup>t</sup> weeds, here with a Beautifull Shrub, even Luxuriant Amongst Briars, and in another corner an Elegant & Lofty tree lost in common thicket—on our way from town to his house he carried me to severall rocks & Dens where he shewed me some of his rare plants, which he had brought from the Mountains &c. In a word he disdains to have a garden less than Pensylvania & Every den is an Arbour, Every run of water, a Canal, & every small level Spot a Parterre, where he nurses up some of his Idol Flowers & cultivates his darling productions. He had many plants whose names he did not know, most or all of which I had seen & knew them—On the other hand he had several I had not seen & some I never heard of—To night I shall pay him a Visit along w<sup>t</sup> a Jamaica Doctor, we set away after dinner & design to Morown it all night w<sup>t</sup> him. I shall be glad to hear of Miss Colden's improvements which no doubt increase every day & may we again be surprised W<sup>t</sup> more than a *Dacier*, even in America, M<sup>r</sup> Wragg & Cleland left this place last Monday, we shall Leave it in ten days.



I shall expect the fav<sup>r</sup> of a like from you soon, by the time I get to Charlestown. I beg leave to offer my Compliments to M<sup>rss</sup> Colden & your good family & remain with great Esteem

Hon<sup>d</sup> Sir

Your Most Obliged & Very hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

A ALEX<sup>r</sup> GARDEN

[Indorsed]

To

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq<sup>r</sup>  
New York

*Cadwallader Colden to Peter Collinson*

COLDENHAM NOV<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1754

S<sup>r</sup>

I now send you a Box with some plants of the *Sarcocolla* to be forwarded by M<sup>r</sup> Alexander's care of them. I doubt much of their growing in your Garden because they grow among a long thick Moss. The tops of the leaves are only to be seen above the Moss & the roots seem not to descend to the soil but to receive their nourishment from the Moss it self

I have been more at leisure these twelve months passed than I had been for several years before I have taken this Opportunity to re-examine the Principles of Action in matter with a view to abandon those Principles if I could not free them from any just objections which have been made to them especially from any appearance of contradiction to what S<sup>r</sup> Isaac Newton has demonstrated. After the greatest attention & care I am capable I still remain persuaded of the truth of them & that they may be of use in every part of Physics. If the truth of them had not appear'd clearly I should not have given you this trouble for this reason I send them to you & I entreat you earnestly to use your Interest with some of your friends who understand the subject to read them over as now corrected & amended. There is a new

piece added to Light & Colours which I formerly mentioned to you likewise for Examination But I must refer you to an Epistle directed to you & prefixed to the Copy for farther particulars. One instance of their use is the discovering Equations for to find the Suns place at any hour I inclose a Table for that purpose which I think agrees with the observations of the sun better than any tables w<sup>h</sup> I have seen & I have not been negligent in comparing it. It would give me the greatest satisfaction if D<sup>r</sup> Bradley would examine it. I inclose a copy of it to be given to him Please to send the inclosed to L<sup>a</sup> Macclesfield when it shall be convenient. I have no inclination to have any thing published from me that is not first approved of, by proper Judges M<sup>r</sup> Franklin tells me that he did not send what I wrote to him on Water Spouts I must have sent it my self tho the doing it has entirely escaped my memory This decay of my memory is the worst effect which I have hitherto found in my age however as to the facts in that letter I am as certain of them as I can be of any thing

I answer'd your favour of y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> of July relating to the Discourse you had with my Lord Halifax about six weeks since Please to take the trouble of seeing him once more as I desired in that letter Two letters on a different subject which I believe he received since you saw him may have had some effect on him The assistance you are allwise ready to give in promoting useful knowlege & the Disposition you have to do me every good office makes me confident you will not take this trouble amiss

---

*From Alexander Garden*

S CAROLINA CHA<sup>s</sup>TOWN  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1754

Hon<sup>rd</sup> Sir

After some very odd & various incidents & Scenes I arrived three days ago In Cha<sup>s</sup>town in top Health as were

likewise Mr Cleland, Wragg & Caw. This Morning hearing of a Vessell for your province I immediately set to write & have just got time to send a line or two. As to news I have yet Learned very little, unless from some packets of European Letters of which I shall inform you in my next. We have got a great crop of Rice & indigo which Last just now sells at 5/St.p lb By next opportunity I shall send you some as a Specimen W<sup>t</sup> some seed along with the Fyr seeds I mentioned. You no doubt have seen the first Volume of the Ed<sup>r</sup> Essays just published in which I'm (for I have not yet perused it myself) told there is a curious paper on the *Vis resistentiæ* of Matter by Mr Hume & an Answer to it by Mr Stuart Prof<sup>s</sup> of Naturall Philosophy. Give me Leave here Learned Sir to beg the favour of a few Lines from you on the Nature Properties &c of the three Species of Matter you mention in your Last work, I shall Look upon it always as the most singular obligation & reckon it amongst the Many I have already received at Y<sup>r</sup> Hands. Pray remember my humble Com<sup>ts</sup> to Mr<sup>ss</sup> Colden & your good family. As I think Miss Colden's description of the Last plant she sent me extreamly accurate I have presumed so far on her goodness as to send it to a European Correspondent—I remain w<sup>t</sup> great Esteem Hon<sup>rd</sup> Sir

Your Most Obliged & Very hble Servt

ALEX<sup>R</sup> GARDEN

[Indorsed]

To

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> CADWALLADER COLDEN  
at Coldinghame  
New-York





# INDEX

- Abeel, on parole, 99, 141.  
 Abercrombie, Gen., orders of, 471.  
 Africa, 74, 284.  
 Aix La Chapelle, Treaty of, 288, 298.  
 Albany, N. Y., change of officials at, 76; county clerk of, 94, 146, 223; Congress to consider Union of the Colonies meets 1754 at, 452-457, 458, 459, 460-461, 463; fort at, 2; mentioned, 1, 2, 37, 38, 61, 76, 94, 146, 223, 232, 241, 252, 261, 263, 264, 269, 270, 273, 274, 275, 277, 284, 285, 286, 289, 290, 297, 311, 384, 401, 439, 444, 451, 452, 458, 460, 461, 466, 467, 468, 470, 471.  
*Albany* (ship), 354.  
 Albertson, Mr., recommended for sheriff of Ulster Co., N. Y., 309, 310.  
 Alexanders, The, 307.  
 Alexander, James, letter of, to John Ayscough, 345-346; letters of, to Cadwallader Colden, 16-19, 30-32, 47-49, 85-88, 143-145, 191-192, 192-194, 194-195, 226, 230-232, 239-241, 245-250, 255, 255-256, 265, 265-268, 294-296, 296-297, 299-300, 303-304, 307-308, 310-311, 311-312, 314, 330-331, 335-336, 336-337, 337, 340-341, 373-376, 384-386, 388-389, 401-402, 420-421, 434-437, 441-444, 459-461; letters of, to Benjamin Franklin, 363-367, 367-368; letter of, to John Mitchell, 291-292; letter to, from J. Betts, 136-139; letter to, from George Clinton, 344-345; letters to, from Cadwallader Colden, 242-243, 253-254; letter to, from Peter Collinson, 433; considers Colden's investigations on refractions a lasting contribution to science, 30; gives an account of a case of rheumatic fever cured by musk, 31; opinion on the Recorder's queries, 181-182; part owner of Cheescocke patent, 192-193, 194; mandamus received, 229, 232; notes on the Governor of Canada's letter, 288-291, 296-297, 298; seat in council restored, 305; comments on Franklin's hints for a scheme for uniting the northern colonies, 442-443; mentioned, 14, 28, 33, 45, 49, 61, 67, 76, 83, 89, 90, 103, 104, 107, 142, 149, 151, 154, 167, 170, 172, 174, 175, 176, 177, 180, 191, 198, 204, 213, 221, 222, 229, 232, 245, 253, 306, 307, 330, 352, 371, 379, 408, 419, 451, 458, 473.  
 Alleghany River, 278.  
 Allen, Mr., commissioner for Pennsylvania, 459.  
 Alsop, Mr., lawyer for Ellison, 193.  
 Amboy, N. J., 308, 310.  
 American colonies, *see* Colonies.  
 Amsterdam, Holland, 308.  
 Animals, North American, 251-252, 260-261.  
 Annapolis, 458.  
 Anson, Lord George, 141, 307.  
 Antigua, W. I., 393, 402, 433.  
*Antilope* (ship), 87, 88.  
*Argo* (ship), 373.  
 Argyle, Duke of, 131, 287.  
 Ariskine, Dr., 258.  
 Ashfield, Lewis, appointed to the New Jersey council, 295.  
 Asia, Bowdin's map of, 366.  
 Assembly, assumes whole executive powers, 127, 162; refuses to retain new levies, 3; to be re-proved and dissolved, 109.  
 Astronomy, Peter Kalin visits America to study, 77; comet observed, 48-49, 136, 137, 138, 139; Franklin's theory of Aurora Boreales, 320; new motion of the earth discovered by Cadwallader Colden, 373; equinox, 374, 380-381; Transit of Mercury, 363-368, 370, 373, 375-376, 383, 385, 388, 393, 394, 402, 405, 433.

- Ayscough, John, letters of, to Cadwallader Colden, 84, 99-100, 104-105, 109-110, 141-142, 142-143, 151-153, 155, 166-168, 169-170, 173-177, 180, 186-187, 208-210, 212-213, 222-223, 228-229, 229, 232-233, 241-242, 329, 354-355, 360-361; letter to, from James Alexander, 345-346; letters to, from Cadwallader Colden, 331-332; letter to, from Col. Lydius, 186-187; sends land certificate to Colden, 222; suggests his younger brother for sheriff of Ulster County, 310; his list of Colden's alleged delays in land patents, 329-330; tells James Alexander that Colden delayed patents to get the fees, 330; asks Colden's decision about buying Capt. Carne's land, 354-355; tries to sell part of his patent to Colden, 360-361; Colden declines to purchase, 361-362; mentioned, 89, 182, 232, 242, 256, 263, 265, 268, 295, 297, 311, 312, 314, 331, 335, 340, 344, 345.
- Bacon's rebellion, 1676, papers relating to, mentioned, 130; manuscript history of, mentioned, 303.
- Badger, Capt., 268.
- Banyar, George, 60, 248, 270.
- Banyar, Mr., 152, 154, 166.
- Barbary, 383.
- Barclay, Mr., 230.
- Barclay & Son, 246, 299.
- Bard, Dr. John, 230.
- Barkitt, John & Son, bill on, 106.
- Barse, Adam, 409.
- Barton, Judge, letter of, to Cadwallader Colden, 133-134; mentioned, 132, 134, 135, 139.
- Bartow, Mr., 387.
- Bartram, John, professor of botany, 79, 80; mentioned, 219, 227, 251, 413, 414, 472.
- Basses [tavern?], 340.
- Batavia, 366.
- Bath, Eng., 221, 222, 379.
- Battery, The, 211.
- Bayard, Capt. John, 9.
- Bayard, Nicholas, 189.
- Bayerd, Mr., 412.
- Beccaria, Giambattista, 463.
- Bedford, Duke of, 73, 76, 83, 87, 109, 151, 152, 154, 165, 166, 171, 172, 188, 189, 190, 198, 213, 228, 233, 238, 254, 266.
- Beekman, H., 304.
- Beekman, Mr., 69, 306, 330, 331.
- Belcher, Mr., 230.
- Belcher, Jonathan, Gov. of Massachusetts, 203, 295.
- Bell, John, merchant in Berwick, Eng., 301.
- Benthuisen, Capt., 223, 225, 241.
- Berlin, Germany, 355.
- Berwick-upon-Tweed, Eng., 301, 333.
- Betts, Dr. J., letter of, to James Alexander, 136-139; letter to, from Cadwallader Colden, 204-207.
- Bleeker, Nicholas, 270.
- Bleeker, Rutger, 270.
- Boerhaave, Dr. Herman, 438, 439.
- Bogardus, Mr., 222.
- Bologna, Italy, 219.
- Bond, Dr., 472.
- Bonnecamp, Joseph Pierre, letter to, from La Galissionière, 347.
- Book-binders, 66.
- Books, titles of, ordered by Colden in London, 115-116; bill for, 132.
- Books mentioned:
- Beccaria. *Dell' ellettricismo artificiale e naturale*, 463.
- Boyer. *French & English dictionary*, 116.
- Catesby. *Natural history*, 392.
- Colden. *Indian History*, 6, 16, 32, 64, 65, 66, 79, 103, 271, 413.
- Colden. *History of Five Nations*, 413, 415.
- Colden. *Principles of action in matter*, 316, 321, 352, 355.
- Colden. *Tract on gravitation*, 6, 67.
- Cook. *Institutes*, 115.
- Franklin. *Electrical observations and experiments*, 359.
- Electrical minutes, 218.
- Hypothesis of causes and effects of lightning, 218.
- Increase of mankind, 359, 406, 414.
- Supplemental experiments, 359.
- Nature and operations of the electrical matter, 227.
- Present state of the Germans in America, 406, 413.
- Properties and phenomena of the air, 406, 413.
- Hale. *Vegetable statics*, 439.
- Halley. *Astronomical tables*, 299, 366, 386, 388, 437, 449.
- Hutchinson, John. *Works*, 397.



- Jacobs. Law dictionary, 116.  
 Jones. Abridgment of Transactions, 364.  
 Johnson. Noctria, 353.  
 Knight. Treatise on attraction and repulsion, 104.  
 Leibnitz, Monades, 328.  
 Lilly. Conveyances, 115, 243.  
 Lilly. Practical register, 115.  
 Linnæus. Genera plantarum, 260.  
 Linnæus. Nova genera, 409.  
 Linnæus. Species plantarum, 409.  
 Longthorpe. Abridgment of Transactions of Royal Society, 363.  
 Martin. Philosophia Britannica, 116.  
 Mead. Treatise on poysons, 354.  
 Pike. Philosophia sacra, 415, 462.  
 Ray. Methodus emendata, 258.  
 Quinutiliani Institutiones oratoris, 116.  
 Smith. General idea of the College of Mirania, 379, 386.  
 Tillotson. Sermons, 196.  
 Voltaire. Explanation of Sir Isaac Newton's philosophy, 299.  
 Wilson. Electricity, 344, 351.  
     Dialogues on education, 221.  
     Economy of human life, 302.  
     Instructor clericalis, 115.  
     Office of Clerk of the Assize,  
     Office of Clerk of the Peace.  
     Principles of philosophy, 20, 67.  
     Siris theologica metaphysica, 115, 116.  
 Boston, Mass., commissioners of Indian affairs meet at, 68; mentioned, 3, 77, 201, 209, 229, 246, 269, 312, 328, 363, 364, 402, 462.  
 Boston *Evening Post*, 402.  
 Botany, Kalm asks Colden to get seeds of acer, or sugar-maple, 78; drouth destroys clover; Colden orders red-clover seed from Collinson, 115; barrel of clover seed shipped, 131, 132; Colden sends plum to Collinson, who asks for seeds of Martegnon or Lily, 197; Colden describes an unnamed plant, 233; Kalm tells Colden he has found the Colocasia, 252; Colden asks Kalm why he thinks it the Colocassia Egyptianum, 261; Collinson tells Colden of the rare plants in his garden, asks for plants of prickly pears, 405; too large a shipment of ginseng sent to England, 405; complains that Linnæus' Species Plantarum will change botanic names given in his Nova genera, 409; Colden sends Collinson the seeds asked for, 419; Bonduc or Canada tree mentioned, 405, 420; Alexander calls it Bonneau, 433; Colden sends saracena to Collinson, 473.  
 Boundary, Eastern, committee on, 332-333.  
 Boundary riots, 401.  
 Bowdin, map of Asia, 366.  
 Bowdoin, James, correspondence with suggested by Franklin, 383; mentioned, 413, 414.  
 Bradford, Andrew, 325.  
 Bradley, James, English astronomer, 136, 449, 474.  
 Bradley, Richard, Attorney General, prosecutes Oliver DeLancey, 116; death of, 295, 312.  
 Bratt, Mr., boy pledged by Indians to, 167.  
 Brinckerhoff, Sheriff, 180, 190.  
 Bristol, Eng., 39, 227.  
 Brown, James, 318.  
 Brown, Samuel, 318.  
 Brown, William, 384, 385, 388, 399, 400, 401, 434, 435.  
 Bryant, Capt., 48, 109, 175, 202, 233, 237, 263, 264, 265, 268, 357, 360, 379, 391.  
 Burges, Mr., 225.  
 Burgess, J., 109.  
 Burlington, N. J., 87, 255, 296, 300.  
 Burnet, Gilbert, 400, 401, 435, 436, 459.  
 Burnet, Gov. William, stops trade with Canada, 43; complaint of Indians to, 294; will of, 399, 400, 401, 434, 437; mentioned, 436.  
 Burnet, Rev. William, letter of, to James Alexander, 434-436; mentioned, 143, 436.  
 Burnetsfield, N. Y., 409.  
 Cadiz, Spain, 297.  
 Canajoharie, N. Y., 207, 409, 411, 412.  
 California (ship), 373.  
 Canada, expedition against, 40, 128; mentioned, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 50, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 69, 70, 71, 77, 79, 93, 203, 205, 242, 272, 275, 276, 277, 278, 283, 285, 286, 293, 299, 303, 304, 347, 363, 381, 460, 466.

- Canada, Governor of, notes by James Alexander on letter of, 288-291, 296, 297-298; Colden's comments on, 297-299; Onnou-dro, Indian name for, 292; mentioned, 141, 155, 278, 279, 281, 289, 290, 291, 292, 295, 296, 297, 298, 414.
- Cannon, Franklin asks loan of, from New York, 5.
- Carne, Capt., land of, in Danbury township, patented in John Ayscough's name, 354; mentioned, 197, 201, 209, 229, 230, 246, 268, 313, 341.
- Cave, Mr., 395, 396, 408.
- Cave's Magazine*, 344.
- Caw, Mr., 475.
- Ceasar, negro, tried, 142.
- Celeron, Monsr., forbids English to trade with Indians, 298.
- Catherwood, John, to return to England, 80, 84; not to be trusted with all affairs, 94; writes Gov. Clinton that papers are mislaid, 144; letters of, to Gov. Clinton, 148-150, 304-306; applies for recall of James DeLancey's commission as Lt.-Gov., 267; letter to, from Cadwallader Colden, 159-165; says Clinton is blamed for country duties dropping and militia act expired, 236; mentioned, 2, 11, 33, 48, 75, 76, 80, 83, 84, 94, 109, 144, 150, 151, 153, 154, 189, 190, 208, 209, 221, 230, 236, 237, 238, 239, 256, 266, 267, 312, 333, 340, 341.
- Chambers, Col. Abraham Gaasbeek, 3, 8, 10, 76, 189, 346.
- Chambers, John, appointed Judge to succeed Frederick Phillipse, 311, 324; opinion on DeLancey's commission as Lt.-Gov., 340-341; mentioned, 180, 295, 306, 373.
- Chambers, Thomas, 76.
- Chambers, Mr., 432.
- Chandos, Duke of, 385.
- Charles, Mr., agent in England, 32, 33, 63.
- Charlestown, S. C., 473, 474, 475.
- Charming Rachel* (ship), 312.
- Cheescocke patent, 192-193, 194.
- China, 363.
- Christman, Jacob, 410, 411.
- Claremont, N. Y., 61.
- Clark, Gov. George, 11, 44, 283, 309.
- Clayton, Mr., 251.
- Cleland, Mr., 472, 475.
- Clinton, Charles, 46, 47, 49, 60, 61, 63, 469.
- Clinton, Col., 469.
- Clinton, Gov. George, letter of, to James Alexander, 344; letters of, to Cadwallader Colden, 1-2, 10-11, 27-29, 32-34, 60-61, 62-64, 68-69, 75-76, 82-83, 84-85, 90-91, 148-150, 187-191, 201-202, 220, 221-222, 237, 268-269, 269-270, 306-307, 323-324, 342, 357-358; letter of, to Abraham DePeyster, 165-166; letter of, to Lords of Trade, 223-225; letters to, from John Catherwood, 148-150, 304-306; letters to, from Cadwallader Colden, 2-5, 6-10, 13-14, 15-16, 25-27, 44-47, 61-62, 82, 88-89, 91-95, 100-103, 150-151, 153-154, 182-186, 213-214, 236-237, 238-239, 244, 244-245, 252-253, 263, 271-287, 309-310, 361-362; letter to, from Sir William Johnson, 187-188; letter to, from John Rutherford, 287; asks Colden to prepare a speech to the Assembly, 1; to the Indians, 68; draft of speech sent by Colden, 6-7; referred to, 13, 116, 225; speech to the Indians, 69-72; leave of absence, 11, 389; cabal against, 21-25, 25-27; libels against, 24, 88, 129, 160; Horsmanden author of libels, 45; recommends missionaries to Indians, 68; memorial in favor of, 109; Oliver DeLancey's seditious utterances against, 117-119; his lot in the Oblong, 132; learns from Catherwood that his accounts concerning the Expedition are lost, mislaid or secreted, 144; assured of support of Duke of Bedford, 198; to return to England, 130, 144, 159, 264, 314, 334, 379; to visit Colden, 220; recommends Morris for Lt.-Governor, 287; brings relations with Canada to an issue, 296; writes to Earl of Holderness in behalf of Cadwallader Colden, 313; inquires about taking up land, 342; to retire to Bath, 379, 448; in disfavor for arbitrary methods, 379, 448; not permitted to leave, 389-390; successor appointed, 391; departure, 408; delivers seals to Sir Danvers Osborn, 407-408; Colden's connection with,

- 466-468; success in engaging Indians to join the English, 466-467; charges against, 468.
- Clinton, Mrs. George (Anne Carle), 2, 28, 29, 62, 63, 76, 83, 90, 154, 213, 237, 240, 253, 263, 307, 310, 342, 345, 358, 421.
- Clinton, Capt. Henry, 27, 62, 76, 83, 89, 100, 101, 153, 311.
- Clinton, Miss, marriage to Capt. Roddam, 110; illness of, 233, 237, 239, 242; death of, 245; mentioned, 2, 27, 83, 154.
- Coezman land grant from Gov. Hunter, 142.
- Colden, Alexander (son of Cadwallader Colden), letter of, to Cadwallader Colden, 469-471; mentioned, 15, 242; to execute a deed of trust in his father's favor, 243; Cadwallader Colden asks appointment of Alexander as Surveyor-General in Province of New York, 244.
- Colden, Alexander (son of James Colden), letters of, to Cadwallader Colden, 19-20, 200-201, 464-465; mentioned, 72, 146, 262.
- Colden, Alice, letter to Mrs. Cadwallader Colden, 386-387; mentioned, 220, 387.
- Colden, Cadwallader, letters written by Colden to:  
James Alexander, 242, 253-254.  
John Ayscough, 331-332.  
Justice Barton, 133-134.  
Dr. J. Betts, 204-207.  
John Catherwood, 159-165.  
Gov. George Clinton, 2-5, 6-10, 13-14, 15-16, 25-27, 44-47, 61-62, 82, 88-89, 91-95, 100-103, 150-151, 153-154, 182-186, 213-214, 236-237, 238-239, 244, 244-245, 252-253, 263, 271-287, 309-310, 361-362.
- Colden, Mrs. Cadwallader, 387, 407-408.
- Peter Collinson, 114-116, 147-148, 395-396, 418-420, 445-448, 465-469, 473-474.
- John Crooke, 134-135.
- Joseph Davidson, 113-114.
- Elizabeth DeLancey (daughter of Cadwallader Colden), 339-340.
- Benjamin Franklin, 156-158, 314-317, 325-328, 337-339, 351-353, 413-418, 437-438, 438-440, 449-451.
- Peter Kalm, 258-261.
- Linnaeus, Charles, 95-99, 256-258.
- Earl of Macclesfield, 370-371, 379-381.
- Duke of Newcastle, 21-25.
- Richard Nicholls, 14-15.
- James Parker, 353-354.
- Gov. William Shirley, 73-74, 119-129.
- Unaddressed, 449.
- Colden, Cadwallader, letters written to, by:  
James Alexander, 16-19, 31-32, 47-49, 85-88, 143-145, 191-192, 192-194, 194-195, 226, 230-232, 239-241, 245-250, 255, 255-256, 265, 265-268, 294-296, 296-297, 299-300, 303-304, 307-308, 310-311, 311-312, 314, 330-331, 335-336, 336-337, 337, 340-341, 373-376, 384-386, 388-389, 401-402, 420-421, 434-437, 441-444, 459-461.
- John Ayscough, 84, 99-100, 104-105, 109-110, 141-142, 142-143, 151-153, 155, 166-168, 169-170, 173-177, 180, 186-187, 208-210, 212-213, 222-223, 227-229, 229, 232-233, 241-242, 329, 354-355, 360-361, 368-369, 369-370.
- Gov. George Clinton, 1-2, 10-11, 27-29, 32-34, 60-61, 62-64, 68-69, 75-76, 82-83, 84-85, 90-91, 148-150, 187-191, 201-202, 220, 221-222, 237, 268-269, 269-270, 306-307, 323-324, 342, 357-358.
- Alexander Colden (son of Cadwallader), 469-471.
- Alexander Colden (son of James), 19-20, 200-201, 464-465.
- Elizabeth Colden (wife of Alexander), 402-403.
- James Colden, 72-73, 146-147, 262, 300-301, 403-404.
- John Colden (son of Cadwallader), 112, 178-179.
- Peter Collinson, 67, 74-75, 103-104, 105-106, 131-132, 196-197, 263-264, 312-313, 355-357, 377-379, 381-391, 393, 404-406, 408-409, 461-462.
- John Crooke, 139-140, 168-169, 198-199, 200.
- Joseph Davidson, 195.
- Elizabeth DeLancey (daughter of Cadwallader Colden), 220-221, 301-302, 431-433.
- Lewis Evans, 107-108.



Benjamin Franklin, 5-6, 78-81, 218-219, 226-227, 319-323, 324-325, 343-344, 358-359, 371-375, 382-384, 412-413, 430-431, 440-441, 457-458, 459, 462-465.

Gov. La Galissonière, 346-347.

Alexander Garden, 471-473, 474-475.

Earl of Halifax, 389-391.

Peter Kalm, 77-78, 250-252.

Archibald Kennedy, 264.

Richard Nicholls, 155.

Thomas Osborne, 64-66, 270-271.

Ferd. John Paris, 130-131.

Samuel Pike, 396-399.

John Rutherford, 287, 333-334.

William Shewington, 393-394.

Thomas Woolcott, 135-136, 179-180.

Colden, Cadwallader:

Clinton asks Colden to prepare his speech for the Assembly, 1; to be sent by Mr. Colden, commissary, 2; writes to Clinton on elections, 3; agrees with Clinton on nature of his speech, 3; to send speech by his son, 3; cannot judge of amendments at Boston, 3; taking of Crown Point favored, 3; difficulty will be raising men, 3; suggests a new election, 4; trial of the militia commended, 4; comments on desire to lessen the King's prerogative, 4; reports neutrality between Six Nations and French Indians, 5; Franklin writes to, about cannon to be loaned by New York to Penn., 5; his books consigned to Mr. Read, 5; Franklin's opinion on the Indian History, 6; approval of his tract on gravitation, 6; sends draught of speech to Clinton, 6; recommends sending parties of Indians into Canada, 7; hints for a printed letter to his excellency to be distributed freely, 8-9; proposes son Cadwallader for Captain in place of John Bayard, 9; thinks public affairs will go more smoothly, by his absence, 10; asks commissions for Watkins and McClaghry, 10; receives Clinton's assurance of good will, 11; draft of speech referred to, 13; advises Clinton on the attitude of the Assembly and recommends a dissolution,

13-14; asks Nicholls to send money on his account, 15; Alexander tells him of situation in Jersey, 19; also of use of musk in convulsions, etc., 19; nephew writes on principles of philosophy, 20; notes on subject of letter, 21; comments to Duke of Newcastle on proceedings of the Assembly, 21-23; 25 years in the council, 23; calumnies against, published under authority of the Assembly, 24; gives brief outline of his career, 24; of opinion that the opposition to Clinton existed from time of his arrival, 25; Clinton proposes to appoint, Surveyor-General for life, 33; remarks on Indian relations and expedition against Canada, 34-44; comments on Horsmanden's services, 45; acknowledges Clinton's offer, 45; asks John Colden be made storekeeper in the fort, 45; conference with Five Nations at Onondaga, 1748, 50-60; Alexander's opinion on commission, 47-48, 61; Indian History well received, 64; proposes to settle his son as bookseller, 65; proposal from Osborne to print his book, 66; treatise on gravitation admired by Germans, 67; Clinton asks Colden to prepare a speech for the Indians, 69; Gov. Clinton's speech to Indians, 69-72; Collinson's request for seeds and plants, 75; Kalm offers Linnaeus Fauna Suevica to, 77; Mr. Hall to sell Indian History, 79; reflections on Clinton's affairs, 82; prepares a recapitulation on public affairs for Clinton, 94; asks the appointment of his son as clerk for Albany Co., 94; ✓ observations on botany and natural history, 95-98; treaty of peace with Canada, comment on, 101; Evans submits his map for revision by, 107; John Colden assigns revenues of clerk's office to, 108-109; inquires costs of printing, 113; inquires about fire engines, 115; orders books from London, 115; draft of message of Clinton to Assembly, 116; relates to Shirley the attacks on him and Clinton, 120-121; has been nearly 30 years in the

Council, 122; on public revenues, 122-124; views on the Chief Justice, 124-125; on Indian affairs, 125-128; memorandum on dispute over his oblong lot, and correspondence relating to, 132-136, 139-140; plans to establish youngest son as merchant, 147; suggests the presence of Colhoun and Cummins to give evidence in Oliver DeLancey's trial, 154, 165; opinion on education of youth in Pennsylvania, 156-158; on the people's dissatisfaction with Clinton, 159-163; relates to Catherwood the political situation in New York, 159-165; riots in New Jersey encouraged by faction in New York, 163; suggests the sending from England of a Chief Justice, 163; case of oblong lot, 168-169, 179-180, 192-194, 194-195, 198-199, 200; opinion on the Duty Act, 182-186; acknowledges Dr. Betts' commendation of principles of action in matter, and discusses his theories on astronomy and physics, 204-207; memory begins to flag, and health fail, 207; is asked to draw up statement for suspending Horsmanden, 208-209; gives his opinion of the "Greyhound" case, 213-218; Franklin sends his electrical observations to, 218; Franklin mentions Abbé Nollet's investigations to, 218; Colden's astronomical observations acknowledged, 219; Clinton proposes to visit Colden, 220; his advice on education asked for, 221; Clinton desires his advice on the dissolution of the Assembly, 222; Alexander desires his presence in New York, 226; Franklin reports Weiser's statement on the French influence among the Six Nations, 227; Clinton asks advice in reference to Treasurer's accounts, 228; is asked to draft a letter to Duke of Bedford and Lords of Trade, 228, 238; replies to Catherwood as to allowing the County Duties to drop and Militia Act to expire, 236; Alexander advises him on the commission for surveyor-general, 240, 242-243; deed of trust to be

executed by Alexander Colden, 243; has prepared a draft of his theory of the planets' motions, for Alexander, 243; tenders resignation as Surveyor-General, with the request for appointment of Alexander Colden to succeed him, 244; letter to Clinton on the subject, 244-245; Alexander discusses the appointment with Clinton, 247; his reasons for refusing the commission as Secretary of Indian Affairs not understood, 247; Alexander is urged to write Clinton to remove unpleasant impressions, 249; his loyalty to Clinton, 252-253; expresses surprise to Alexander at the Governor's taking offense at his letters, 253-254; his reasons for not accepting the secretaryship of Indian Affairs, 254; mentions death of John Colden, 254; Alexander's comments on Colden's reasons for not accepting commission, 255; writes to Linnaeus on Kalm's learning, 257; sketch of his life, and work in scientific research, sent to Kalm, 258-260; answers Kalm's queries about animals, 260-261; comments on loss of teeth in the colony, 261; and diseases prevalent, 261; death of oldest son and his nephew mentioned in letter from James Colden, 262; order from Clinton to Cadwalader and Alexander Colden, to survey Herkimer's land, 269-270; Indian History well received, but sale fallen off, 271; observations on the state of Indian affairs, 271-287; agrees with Alexander on the Governor of Canada's letter, 296; his presence necessary at the opening of session of the Assembly, 297; his endorsement of Alexander's comments on the Governor of Canada's letter, 297-299; recommends Clinton to inform the Board of Trade that the Assembly made no provision for a delegate to the Governor of Canada, 299; advises Governor Clinton on the appointment of a sheriff for Ulster Co., 309; Collinson gives Indian History to Lord Holderness, 313; his ad-

miration of Franklin's electrical experiments, 314; his observations on electricity, 315-316; his principles of action in matter to be published, 316-317; calls Franklin's attention to the cure of cancer by pokeweed, 317; Franklin bespeaks his interest in Parker, 325; his work translated into German, 328; tells Franklin that pokeweed is *phylolacca*, 328; Ayscough's list of Colden's alleged delays in the land patents, 329-330; Ayscough tells James Alexander that delays occur so fees may go to, 330; declines to accept a map of the patented lands sent by Ayscough, 332; his opinion on eastern boundary dispute, 333; Gov. Clinton offended by letter from, 335; James Alexander asks Colden to send a map of the Province of New York, 336-337; advice to Mrs. DeLancey on the education of her children, 339-340; Gov. Clinton asks advice on taking up land, 342; tells Franklin that his youngest son is interested in electrical experiments, 351; has Mr. Hartwick's translation of the remarks on the principles of action in matter, by Germans, 352; suggests that Parker publish Dr. Mead's cure for hydrophobia, 354; Ayscough wishes his decision on purchase of Capt. Carne's land, 354; Collinson send Euler's comments on his principles of action in matter, 355-357; Franklin approves of David Colden's answer to Abbé Nollet, and suggests its publication, 358-359; Ayscough wishes to sell his land to, 360-361; to which he replies through Gov. Clinton, refusing to purchase, 361-362; James Alexander urges his presence in New York to observe the transit of Mercury, 368; submits his observations of action in matter to Lord Macclesfield, 370-371; corrects an error in the previous statement on the motion of the equinoxes, 379-381; Peter Collinson mentions the death of James Colden, 381; Franklin sends barley from Barbary to,

383-384; the London and Gentleman's Magazines have extracts from the Principles of action in matter, 384; errors in the Mullender patent, which the Council will be petitioned to amend, 385; Lord Halifax says that a fixed salary for him as Surveyor-General is impracticable, 389-391; is asked to inform Dr. Fothergill of his observation on sore throat, 392; Collinson tells him the Memorial has been delivered to Lord Halifax, 393; suggests to Collinson the publishing of Euler's remarks on his Principles of action in matter, 395-396; Samuel Pike expresses great obligation for the principles of motion in matter, 396; James Alexander desires his opinion on the Mullender patent, 399-400; prepares brief of William Brown's title to Mullender's lot, 400-401; opposition to his salary as Surveyor-General, 402; tells of Gov. Osborne's suicide, and burial, 407-408; takes leave of Admiral Clinton, 408; desires information on the Act to prevent trade with the French in Indian goods, 413, 414; Franklin sends Nollet's book to, 413; his observations on water-spouts, 417, 445, 446; complimented on Lord Halifax's approval of his conduct of public affairs, 431; further points in the Mullender case, 434-437; congratulates Franklin on the recognition of his discoveries, by the Royal Society, 438; receives the scheme for uniting the northern colonies, 442-444; asks Collinson what was Dr. Fothergill's opinion on his account of sore throat, 447; fears criticisms of Gov. Clinton's administration may affect himself, 448; mentions the return to England of Sir Danvers Osborne's body, 448; his remarks on Franklin's plan of Union of the colonies, 449-451; forwarded to Franklin at Albany, 451; not received until session of Congress is near the close, 458; receives text of plan of Union from Franklin, 459; Collinson tells him of Lord Halifax's atti-



- tude toward him, 462; expresses his pleasure at Collinson's report, 466; reviews his connection with the administration of Clinton, 466-469; suggests that Collinson repeat it to Lord Halifax, 469; Alexander Garden gives an account of his visit to Gov. Tinker to, 471-472; sends plants of *sarcocolla* to Collinson, and papers to be submitted to Lord Macclesfield, 473-474.
- Colden, Cadwallader, mentioned, 64, 83, 84, 88, 147, 150, 156, 169, 170, 172, 179, 180, 191, 192, 194, 197, 198, 199, 200, 219, 220, 226, 227, 229, 232, 237, 238, 241, 252, 262, 264, 265, 268, 271, 291, 292, 297, 300, 301, 302, 307, 308, 312, 313, 314, 324, 325, 329, 331, 336, 337, 341, 342, 346, 355, 357, 358, 359, 361, 369, 371, 373, 379, 381, 384, 386, 391, 392, 393, 399, 400, 404, 406, 409, 413, 433, 434, 436, 437, 444, 458, 461, 462, 465, 473, 475.
- Colden, Mrs. Cadwallader (Alice Chrystie), letter to, from Alice Colden, 386-387; mentioned, 2, 19, 32, 49, 64, 192, 252, 265, 297, 302, 308, 311, 358, 387, 408, 473, 475.
- Colden, Cadwallader, Jr., proposed as Captain, 9; mentioned, 153, 178, 222, 223, 229, 329, 330, 339, 358, 403, 432, 460.
- Colden, Cadwallader (son of James), 146, 301, 404.
- Colden, Caty, 387.
- Colden, David, reply to Abbé Nollet, 421-430; mentioned, 408, 421.
- Colden, Elizabeth (wife of Alexander), letter of, to Cadwallader Colden, 402-403.
- Colden, George (son of James), 146.
- Colden, James (brother of Cadwallader), letters of, to Cadwallader, 72-73, 146-147, 262, 300-301, 403-404; death of, 381; mentioned, 464.
- Colden, Jane, 220, 221, 227, 229, 237, 239, 242, 263, 302, 387, 432.
- Colden, John (son of Cadwallader), letter of, to Cadwallader, 178-179, 469-471; letters of, to Maynard Guerin, 80, 110-111; letters of, to Peter Collinson, 81, 110, 111; letters to, from John Ayscough, 146, 225; letter to, from Peter Collinson, 145; Cadwallader Colden asks for his appointment as storekeeper to the garrison at New York, 45; appointed, 61; storekeeper, 80, 81; bill of exchange of, 81, 111, 115; County Clerk for Albany Co., N. Y., 94, 100, 102, 108; affidavit of that his appointment as County Clerk was for the benefit of Cadwallader Colden, 108; bill for salary as storekeeper, 110.
- Colden, John (son of James) apprentice to a weaver, 147, 301.
- Colden, Mr., commissary, 2.
- Coldenham, N. Y., mentioned, 6, 19, 25, 32, 34, 44, 49, 78, 80, 91, 95, 100, 103, 108, 110, 132, 133, 134, 136, 140, 145, 153, 156, 169, 179, 192, 194, 195, 199, 200, 220, 229, 232, 237, 238, 241, 242, 244, 252, 255, 256, 265, 268, 296, 297, 300, 302, 304, 308, 309, 312, 314, 325, 329, 331, 336, 337, 341, 351, 358, 359, 361, 369, 370, 373, 379, 384, 386, 395, 403, 408, 409, 413, 418, 433, 437, 445, 451, 458, 461, 465, 473, 475.
- Colhoun, Alexander, deposition of, in suit against Oliver DeLancey, 118; mentioned, 149, 154, 165.
- Collinson, Peter, letters of, to Cadwallader Colden, 67, 74-75, 103-104, 105-106, 131-132, 196-197, 263-264, 312-313, 355-357, 377-379, 381, 391-392, 393, 404-406, 408-409, 433-434, 461-462; letter of, to Earl of Holderness, 313-314; letters to, from Cadwallader Colden, 114-116, 147-148, 395-396, 418-420, 445-448, 465-469, 473-474; letter to, from John Colden, 110, 111; letter to, from Jackson, Hart & Rutherford, 106-107; mentioned, 16, 19, 20, 30, 32, 64, 66, 67, 72, 80, 81, 99, 107, 111, 113, 136, 165, 207, 246, 257, 261, 287, 295, 296, 299, 312, 344, 359, 372, 374, 384, 385, 414, 431, 463, 464.
- Collinson, Mrs. Peter, death of, 381.
- Colonies, plan of Union of, 1754; scheme outlined by Benjamin Franklin, 443-444; Colden's comments on, 449-451; text of, 452-457.

- Comet, 48-49, 136, 137, 138, 139.
- Congress to consider Plan of Union meets at Albany, 452; commissioners agreed on union for 11 colonies, 458; Indians not punctual in attending, 458; Franklin sends a copy of proceedings to Colden, 459; mentioned, 460.
- Conklin, William, 193.
- Connecticut, 363, 364, 452.
- Convention to consider Plan of Union of the colonies, meets at Albany, 452.
- Corlear Brother, Indian name for Philip Schuyler, 293.
- Corne, Capt., land of, in Danbury township, patented in John Ayscough's name, 354; mentioned, 197, 201, 209, 229, 230, 246, 268, 313, 341.
- Corporation for the propagation of the gospel among the Indians in New England, 68.
- Cosby, Capt., 311.
- Cosby, William, Governor of New York, 44.
- Courtland, Mr., 76.
- Coxe, John, succeeded by David Ogden in New Jersey Council, 295.
- Crooke, John, letters to, from Cadwallader Colden, 134-135; letters of, to Cadwallader Colden, 139-140, 168-169, 198-199, 200; retained by Colden, 135; lot in the oblong, 140; mentioned, 178, 179, 180, 194.
- Croton River, N. Y., 362.
- Crown Point, expedition against, 1, 3, 5, 7, 29, 33, 47, 164; fort at, 203, 285, 286.
- Cruger, John, 76.
- Cumberland, Duke of, death of, 308.
- Cummins, Mr., deposition in suit against Oliver DeLancey, 118; mentioned, 141, 154.
- Cummins, Rev. Mr., 399.
- Cunningham, Mr., storekeeper in the fort, 45, 46.
- Cunningham, Miss, 46.
- Custom House, N. Y. City, 224.
- Cuyler, Mr., 298.
- Dalibard, Mr., answer to Abbé Nollet, 359, 413.
- Danbury, Ct., 354.
- Davidson, James, 301.
- Davidson, Joseph, letter to, from Cadwallader Colden, 113-114; letter of, to Cadwallader Colden, 195-196.
- Dean, Capt., 229, 246, 299, 300, 313, 329.
- DeLametter, Isaac, 140.
- DeLancey, Alice, 220, 302.
- DeLancey, Elizabeth (daughter of Cadwallader Colden), letters of, to Cadwallader Colden, 220-221, 301-302, 431-433; letters to, from Cadwallader Colden, 339-340; illness of, 9, 10; mentioned, 386, 387, 407, 408.
- DeLancey, James, Chief Justice, appointed Lt.-Governor, 10; Gov. Clinton proposes that the Chief Justiceship be given up to Phillipse and Howe and another, 29; two offices incompatible, 32; his commission to be returned, 109; uses his office to intimidate, 125; Colden raises question as to whether a commission under the great seal of Great Britain can supersede a commission under the seal of the Province of New York, 125; letter to, from Capt. Roddam, in the "Greyhound" case, 210, 211; letter of, to Capt. Roddam, 211, 212; refuses to deliver the gunner's mate of the "Greyhound," 211, 211-212; will deliver at the next court, 214; Colden's comments on the attitude of, 217; verdict of, 222; Gov. Clinton communicates with the Lords of Trade on DeLancey's action in the "Greyhound" case, 223-225; seriously ill with asthma, 265; referred to by Catherwood as instigating the republican faction, 305; Lord Halifax's opinion that he should not be left in the administration, 306; commissioned as Lt.-Governor, 389; to be suspended from the Council, 390; Gov. Clinton delivers his commission as Lt.-Governor, 407; mourner at Gov. Osborn's funeral, 408; mentioned, 11, 26, 27, 28, 32, 34, 45, 47, 61, 63, 69, 76, 121, 128, 148, 149, 150, 153, 154, 159, 167, 172, 185, 190, 192, 208, 218, 225, 268, 302, 303.
- DeLancey, Mrs. James, 302.

- DeLancey, Nancy (daughter of Peter), 302.
- DeLancey, Oliver, prosecution of, ordered by Gov. Clinton, 85; threatens the mayor of New York, 90; at Esopus, takes side of the republican faction, 102, 141; suit for sedition brought against, 1749, 116-119, 143, 154, 223; abuses Gov. Clinton, 120; lawyers decline to appear against, 125; in attack on the house of a Jew, 189; mentioned, 149, 470.
- DeLancey, Oliver (son of Peter), 302, 432.
- DeLancey, Peter, 221, 237, 239, 302, 407, 432.
- DeLancey, Peter, Jr. (son of Peter), 302, 339, 340.
- DeLancey, Samuel, 220.
- DeLancey, Stephen (son of Peter), 302.
- Delaware Bay, 337.
- Delaware River, 278.
- Delisle, M., on Transit of Mercury, 347-351; mentioned, 394.
- DePeyster, Abraham, letter to, from Gov. Clinton, 165-166; letter of, to Gov. Clinton on his accounts as Treasurer, 170-172; James Alexander comments on, 176-177; mentioned, 228.
- Detroit, Indian name for, Tejugh-saghrondie, 293, 294; mentioned, 280, 290, 291.
- Dice, Mr., 433.
- Dodsley, Mr., prints Colden's Principles of action in matter, 313, 316, 328, 395, 408, 419.
- Dodswell, Mr., to print Colden's papers, 392.
- Donaldson, Lt.-Col., 471.
- Dorset, Duke of, 109.
- Dover, N. Y., 132, 133, 134.
- Dover* (ship), 233, 295, 299, 312, 323, 324, 420.
- Drum, Major, 141.
- Dukey, Col., 3.
- Dunkirk, France, 300.
- Dunse, Scotland, mineral well at, 301.
- Dutch, 224.
- Dutchess Co., N. Y., 135, 200, 401.
- Duties, Clinton blamed for allowing, to drop, 236.
- Duties and Excise, 170-172, 173-175, 176-177, 180, 181-182, 182-186.
- Duty on American iron, removal of, 202.
- Dyre, John, observations on Transit of Mercury, 388.
- Earle, T., and Hodgson, T., 106.
- East Indies, 363, 364, 366, 367.
- Edgerstown, 333.
- Edinburgh, 333.
- Education, Franklin's proposals relating to education of youth in Pennsylvania, 156; Smith's Idea of the College of Mirania, 379, 386.
- Ellison, Col., 469.
- Ellison, John, of Haverstraw, N. Y., sues Wm. Conklin, 193, 194.
- Ellison, Capt. Thomas, 10, 403.
- Eltinge, Noah, 371.
- England, 2, 5, 13, 14, 29, 32, 62, 73, 77, 93, 137, 142, 223, 240, 325, 328, 354, 374, 375, 382, 385, 400, 405, 459, 468.
- England, King of, Indian name for, Korackkow, 293.
- Erskine, *see* Ariskine.
- Esopus, N. Y., 102, 141, 178.
- Euler, Prof. Leonard, on Cadwallader Colden's Principles of action in matter, 355-357, 395-396, 414; Colden's answer to, 378, 395, 396, 406, 408, 414.
- Europe, 261, 263.
- Evans, Lewis, letter of, to Cadwallader Colden, 107-108; map of, 107, 337.
- Evans Patent, 191.
- Evans, Mr., 80, 219, 227.
- Excise and Duties, 170-172, 173-175, 176-177, 180, 181-182, 182-186, 192.
- Falmouth, Eng., 229.
- Filkintown, N. Y., 132, 134.
- Fitzgerald, George, bill on, 106, 107.
- Flamsteed, John, observation of the sun, 206; observation of Mars, 364; mentioned, 437.
- Flatbush, N. Y., 295, 300.
- Fletcher, Benjamin, Gov. of New York, 292, 295.
- Flushing, N. Y., 408.
- Fort George, N. Y., 60, 73, 75, 99, 141, 142, 146, 151, 166, 169, 173, 180, 186, 198, 208, 212, 221, 225, 228, 229, 232, 237, 241, 268, 270, 323, 329, 354, 357, 360.



Fort St. Frederick (Crown Point, N. Y.), 203, 286.  
 Fothergill, Dr., 392, 420, 447.  
 Fox, Mr., 378, 434.  
 France, Court of, 279, 281, 289.  
 France, King of, 288.  
 Franklin, Benjamin, letter of, to James Alexander, 443-444; letters of, to Cadwallader Colden, 5-6, 78-81, 218-219, 226-227 319-323, 324-325, 343-344, 358-359, 371-375, 382-384, 412-413, 430-431, 440-441, 457-458, 459, 462-465; letters to, from Cadwallader Colden, 156-158, 314-317, 325-328, 337-339, 351-353, 413-418, 437-438, 438-440, 449-451; asks loan of cannon from New York, 5; approves of Colden's Indian History, 6; takes a partner in the Printing House, 6; printing business in care of his partner, David Hall, 78; discontinues bookselling, 78; looks forward to traveling and withdraws from public affairs, 78; declines to run for the Assembly, 79; has asked Hall to put Colden's Indian History on sale, 79; mentions Bartram's arrival, 80; discusses education, 156; considers that the power of a nation consists in the knowledge and virtue of its inhabitants, 158; in favor of establishing a college, 157-158; sends Hypothesis of cause and effects of lightning to Colden, 218; mentions further experiments, 218-219; considers proposed meeting with Indians of importance, 227; and urges Colden to recognize his responsibilities, 227; mentions his latest work, "Nature and operations of the electrical matter," 227; answers electrical queries of Colden, 319-321; conjecture about the Auroræ Boreales, 320; discusses theory of light, 321-322; mentions use of pokeweed in cure of cancer and the difficulty of knowing the right plant, which some believe to be Mechoacan, 323; recommends Parker to Colden's consideration, 325; Colden continues the discussion on light, 337-339; and tells Franklin that pokeweed is phylolacca, not mechoacan, 338; requests Colden

to send the German translation of Principles of action in matter, 343; his electrical papers translated into French, 344; mentions Kinnersley lectures on electricity, 344; sends "Wilson on Electricity" to Colden, 344; Colden replies and continues discussion on light and electricity, 351-353; mentions accounts of the electrical kite, 353; asks Franklin to experiment with fermented liquors for electrical fluid, 353; discusses Abbé Nollet experiments, 359; suggests printing David Colden's reply to Nollet, 359; intends writing to Nollet himself, 359; sends his Increase of Mankind and supplemental electrical experiments to Colden, 359; letter to, from James Alexander, on observation of Transit of Mercury, 363; gives his opinion of Kastner's criticisms and Colden's reply, 371; deplores his lack of mathematical knowledge, 373; congratulates Colden on his discovery of a new motion of the earth on its axis, 373; procured subscriptions for the expedition in search of a Northwest passage, 373; printed copies of the letter on observations of Transit of Mercury, to send to Jersey, New England, Maryland and Virginia, 375; receives gold medal for discoveries in electricity, 379; recent experiments on lightning, 382; intends to answer Abbé Nollet, 383; asks Colden for a copy of his Principles of action in matter to send to James Bowdoin, 383; prints directions for observations of Transit of Mercury, 385; sends a copy of observations at Antigua to James Alexander, 402; Collinson mentions receipt of Franklin's Increase of Mankind, Properties and phenomena of the air, and Present state of Germans in America, 406; appointed joint postmaster with Mr. Hunter, 408; takes a journey to East and to Western frontier, 413; mentions treaty with Ohio Indians, 413; has given Colden's book to Mr. Bowdoin, 413; sends Nollet's

- book to Colden, and says Mr. Dalibard is about to publish an answer to it, 413; refers to new Hypothesis of thunder and lightning, 413; Colden desires to have the treaty and also to read the work mentioned by Collinson, 414; Colden sends his article on water-spouts, 417-418; David Colden's reply to Abbé Nollet, 421-430; David Colden quotes Franklin's theories on electricity, 421, 422, 423, 425, 426, 428, 429; sends Increase of Mankind to Colden, 431; congratulates Colden on Lord Halifax's approbation, 431; Royal Society presents gold medal for electrical discoveries to, 433; Colden's congratulations on honors from Royal Society, 438; asks to see reply to Abbé Nollet, 438; desires to know Franklin's explanation of water spouts, 439; refers to two long journeys, 440; experiments in electricity, 441; describes Kinnersley's methods, 441; James Alexander mentions conversation with Franklin, and Peeters on Union of the Colonies, and Franklin's promise to send his hints for the scheme, 441-443; text of the short hints towards a scheme for uniting the Northern colonies, 443-444; Franklin tells Colden that another man agrees with his theory of water-spouts, 446; remarks by Colden on the short hints for uniting the Northern colonies, 449-451; Colden invites Franklin to visit him on returning from Albany, 451; at convention at Albany, which reported the draft of a plan of Union, 452-457; regrets he can not visit Colden, 458; reports that the Commissioners agreed upon a Plan of Union of 11 Colonies, 458; sends copy of Plan of Union to Colden, 459; on commission to teach Germans English, 459; returns Pike's *Philosophia Sacra* to Colden, with comments, 462; starts on an eastern journey and requests Colden to write to him at Boston, 462; reports that the Pennsylvania Assembly did not approve of the Plan of Union, 463; comments on a letter to Abbé Nollet, 463-464; sends translation of letter to Colden, 464; mentioned, 6, 65, 99, 129, 257, 258, 261, 264, 368, 375, 395, 420, 445, 446, 448, 449, 460, 474.
- Franklin, William (son of Benjamin), 457, 458.
- French, Sir William Johnson to procure the French prisoners from the Indians, 92; embassy to treat for exchange of prisoners, 99-100; delay in taking French prisoners out of Indians' hands, 101; policy to create jealousy between the English and Six Nations, 70, 101.
- French and Indian War, 29; 34-44, 69, 71, 99-100, 101-102.
- French militia, estimated strength of, 41.
- Frey, Hendrick, 410, 411.
- Friendship* (ship), 88.
- Frontenac, 283, 284.
- Gale, Mr., 3.
- Galileo, 323.
- Gallissonière, Roland Michel, Barin de la, Governor of Canada, letter of, to Cadwallader Colden, 346-347; letter of, to Father Bonnecamp, 347; mentioned, 141, 367.
- Garden, Alexander, letters of, to Cadwallader Colden, 471-473, 474-475.
- Garrison, Capt., 373, 374.
- Gentleman's Magazine*, 379, 384.
- George II, King, 108.
- German, Mr., 132.
- German Flatts, N. Y., 410.
- Germans, Pennsylvania, 459, 463.
- Germany, 219.
- Gerretse, Mr., 222.
- Gibraltar taken by French and Spanish, 297, 299.
- Gillet, Joseph, 132.
- Glasgow, Scotland, 301.
- Glens purchase, 409.
- Goolding, Mr., letter from Indians to, 411; letter from David Schuyler, Peter Schuyler, and Nicholas Pecherd, 412.
- Goshen, N. Y., 470.
- Governors in America, instructions to, 317-318.
- Grace* (ship), 227.
- Graham's watch, 393.

- Gray's Inn, London, 271.  
 Greenwich, Eng., 137, 138.  
 Greenwich, N. Y. City, 344, 408, 452.  
 Grew, Thomas, 386.  
*Greyhound* (ship), Capt. Roddam, commander of, 210; gunner's mate of, kills Elizabeth Hibbens, 210-212, 213-214; opinion of Colden on, 214-218; Ayscough reports to Colden on, 222-223; Clinton to Board of Trade on, 223-225; mate to be delivered up, 242.  
 Griffiths, Capt., 110, 141.  
 Grignon, Mr., 394.  
 Gronovius, Laurentius Theodorus, life of, 251; mentioned, 67, 96, 98, 130, 257, 261.  
 Guerin, Maynard, letter of, to John Colden, 80; letter to, from John Colden, 110-111; mentioned, 63, 75, 81, 103, 111, 145, 165, 208, 263.  
 Hale, Dr., 439.  
 Halifax [George Montagu Dunk, 3d], Earl of, secretary of state, presents a memorial to the king in favor of Clinton, 109; tells Catherwood that Clinton should not leave DeLancey as Deputy Governor, 148; appointed, with the Board, to have charge of American affairs, 324; letter to Cadwallader Colden, expressing esteem in which he is held, 389-391; Colden mentions this to Franklin, 415; and to Collinson, 445; mentioned, 109, 154, 164, 222, 378, 381, 393, 402, 420, 448, 461, 462, 463, 466, 469, 474.  
 Halifax, Lt., appointed secretary for the plantations, 304.  
 Halifax, Eng., ship from, 308.  
 Halifax, Nova Scotia, 363.  
 Hall, David, 78, 79.  
 Halley, Edmund, 259, 299, 364, 366, 386, 388, 437, 449.  
 Hamburg, Germany, 328.  
 Hamilton, James, Deputy-Governor of Pennsylvania, 296.  
 Hamilton, John, President of New Jersey, 86.  
 Hardenbergh, Johannes, 239.  
 Haringtone, Elisha, 132.  
 Harrison, George, 148, 189, 194, 196, 198, 225, 361.  
 Hartwick, Rev. Mr., Lutheran minister, translated Colden's *Action in Matter*, 352.  
 Hasbrouck, Abraham, mentioned, 7, 103, 178, 346, 355, 360.  
 Hellgate, N. Y., 73.  
 Hellmar, Elisabeth, 410.  
 Herkimer, Hendrick, 269, 270.  
 Herkimer, Johan Joost, 269-270.  
 Herring, Col., complaint of, by Gabriel Ludlow, 83, 88; mentioned, 89, 90.  
 Hexin, Dr., 150.  
 Hibbin, Elizabeth, murder of, 211-212, 214-218, 222.  
 Hicks, Mr., 9.  
 Hicks, Col., 222.  
 Hill, Mr., secretary of Board of Trade, 393, 420.  
 Holderness [Robert D'Arcy], Earl of, letter to, from Collinson, 313; Colden's *Indian History* presented to, 313; mentioned, 311.  
 Holland, Mr., appointed on council, 221.  
 Holland, Mr., mentioned, 307, 329, 331.  
 Holland, 224.  
 Home, Ninian, widow of, kills herself, 301.  
 Horsmanden, Daniel, libel against Clinton, 45, 208; petition of, 75; reply to, 75; suspended, 75, 208, 209; suspension approved, 109; appointed judge, 402; dropped from the Council, 407.  
 Horrocks (or Horrox), Jeremiah, 365.  
 Howe, Mr., 28, 29, 242.  
 Howell, Mr., 394.  
 Hudsons Bay, 251.  
 Hudson River, 216, 223, 251, 278, 286, 401, 416, 439.  
 Hume, Mr., 475.  
 Hunter, Gov. Robert, 142, 259.  
 Hunter, Mr., of Philadelphia, joint postmaster-general with Franklin, 408; mentioned, 200, 457.  
 Hutchinson, John, 397.  
*Hutor* (ship), 144.  
 Iedburgh, 333.  
 Ilchesler, Lord, 378.  
 Independent companies, New York agent, 81, 111.  
 Indian affairs, Cadwallader Colden to Gov. Clinton on, 34-42; Colden's conference with the Five Nations at Onondaga, 50-60;



- mission to the Indians recommended to Gov. Clinton, 68; Gov. Clinton's speech, 69-72; neglect of, by English, 125-126; Cadwallader Colden gives Gov. Shirley his opinion of the situation of, 125-128; Sir William Johnson advised to withdraw from, 126; notifies Gov. Clinton, 188; notifies the Indians of his withdrawal from, 273; resignation explained, 275; Indians insist that he continue in office, 277; Five Nations ask to have their affairs put into Sir William Johnson's hands, 460; speech to Gov. Belcher by Caknawagas, 202-203; Colden's review of, 271-287; James Alexander's comments on Governor of Canada's letter on, 288-291; Cadwallader Colden approves these, 297-299; Register of Indian affairs in Albany, extracts from, 292-294; mentioned, 290; trade, 414, 430-431; Franklin's treaty with Ohio Indians, 413, 414, 430; treaty, at Albany, proposed, 28-29, 241-242, 269; mentioned, 94-95, 238, 249, 264, 294, 303.
- Indian affairs, Secretary of, Colden proposed as, 247; reasons for not accepting, 254, 255; office promised to the Mayor, 256; Lydeus recommended by Johnson for, 127; Capt. Wraxall appointed, 267.
- Indian history, Colden's *History of the Five Nations*, 6, 16, 32, 64, 65, 66, 103, 271, 413.
- Indian names mentioned: Abnaihees, 155; Algonquins, 289; Ardatago, 202, 203; Angagsagigta, 202, 203; Cadaracknie, 279, 280, 281, 283; Canajoharey, 409; Caknawaga, 202, 203, 278, 286; Cataracque, 290, 291, 292, 294; Catawbas, 187; Cayugas, 284; Cheesocke, 49; Corlear, 293; Corackkow, 293; Flatheads, 126; Ganughsadeagh, 50; Gargiateckha, 411; Kahayat, 49; Korackkow, 293; Mahekun, 12; Messisagnes, 278; Mohawks, 275, 276, 303, 304; Nicholas, Indian Sachem, 409-411; Oniagara, 279, 280, 283; Onondaga, 279, 293; Onnoudro, 292; Paumittunnawseu, 12; River Indians, 12; Senecas, 278, 283, 284; Tejughsaghrondie, 293, 294; Twightures, 279, 288; Utawawas, 278.
- Indians, neutrality between Six Nations and French, 5; parties of, to be sent to Canada, 7; message from, at Paumittunnawseu, to River Indians, 12; answer of River Indians, 12; Shirley to join Clinton in securing, 28; proposed treaty at Albany with, 29; Colden on importance of preserving the friendship of the Six Nations, 34-42; Kahayats won over by the Cheesockes, 49; Elihu Spencer and Job Strong to be sent as missionaries to, 68; Colden's conference with Five Nations at Onondaga, 1748, 50-60; Clinton's speech to, 69-72; make maple sugar, 78; prisoners in French hands to be redeemed, 92-93; sachems at Mount Johnson, 100; policy of French to create jealousy between English and the Six Nations, 101; Six Nations must be pleased, 101-102; Caknawagas sent to incite the Five Nations, 126; pledge children to traders, 167; Mohawk castle, 187, 274; French active among, 187; peace to be established between the French and our, 188; speech of Caknawaga Indians to Gov. Belcher, on French forts at Niagara and Crown Point and English fort at Oswego, 202-203; ask that Lydius dwell at Otter Creek, 203; treaty convention to be held at Albany, 241-242; said to eat roots of a species of *nymphaea*, 261; Capt. Wraxall appointed Secretary of Indian Affairs, 267; treaty with Indians not likely to be supported by the Assembly, 269; Colden's observations on the state of Indian affairs and the securing the fidelity of, 271-287; neglect of, by Assembly, 305; deed to King George, 409; Franklin's treaty with the Ohio, 413, 414, 430; the trade with, 414, 430-431; present at convention to consider the Plan of Union of the colonies, 444, 445; mentioned, 47, 98, 208, 303, 304, 460, 466; Society for propagating

- the gospel among the, 68, 283;  
treaty with, at Albany, proposed,  
28-29, 241-242, 269; with Ohio,  
413, 414, 430.  
Italy, 219, 463.
- Jackson, Hart & Rutherford, mer-  
chants, Leghorn, letter to Peter  
Collinson, 106-107; mentioned,  
105, 107.
- Jamaica, N. Y., 401.
- Jamaica, W. I., 142, 308, 369.
- Jamima* (ship), 106.
- Janse, Johannes, elected, 7.
- Jay, Mr., 152.
- Jersey proprietors, 17-18, 87, 89,  
250.
- Jersey rioters, 17-18, 86, 163.
- Jerseys, 191, 202, 209, 216, 230, 250,  
266, 269, 296, 297, 308, 310.
- Jerseys, *see* New Jersey.
- Johnson, David, deposition in suit  
against Oliver DeLancey, 117.
- Johnson, Dr., 339, 408.
- Johnson, S., 177.
- Johnson, Sir William, Superin-  
tendent of Indian Affairs, ap-  
pointed commanding officer, 28;  
receives commission as colonel  
from Clinton, 64; sends flag of  
truce to Canada to redeem  
prisoners, 69; to secure the ex-  
change of prisoners with the  
French, 90, 92, 93; notifies Clin-  
ton that a number of Sachems  
were coming to Mount Johnson,  
100; Sir Peter Warren advises  
Johnson to withdraw from the  
Indian affairs, and decline all  
public business, 126-127; recom-  
mends Mr. Lydeus for Secretary  
of Indian affairs, 127; extract  
from letter of, to Governor  
Clinton, 187-188; informs Clin-  
ton that he can not maintain  
the expense of the Indian affairs,  
188; appointed to the Council,  
221; Clinton had opposed his  
recommendation of Lidius. 247;  
distinguished himself in man-  
agement of the Indians, 272;  
notified Indians of withdrawal  
from Indian affairs, 273; con-  
siderable trader with western  
Indians, 273; advanced money  
for public expenses, for which  
payment was delayed by the  
Assembly, 274; money still due  
him, without any charge for a  
salary, 275; Indians insist on his  
continuing in office, 277; land  
grant delayed by Colden, 329;  
mentioned, 1, 4, 14, 76, 151, 170,  
179, 218, 305, 311, 324.
- Kalm, Peter, letter of, to Cadwal-  
lader Colden, 77-78, 250-252; let-  
ters to, from Colden, 258-261;  
publishing his travels and obser-  
vations on his American expedi-  
tion, 379; mentioned, 95, 98, 99,  
103, 131, 219, 256, 257.
- Kästner, Abraham Gotthelf, pro-  
fessor at Leipsic, 371, 382, 395,  
408, 414, 431.
- Kellogg, Joseph, Indian inter-  
preter, 203.
- Kelso, Scotland, 24.
- Kemp, William, Attorney-General,  
appointed, 311, 312, 385.
- Kennedy, Archibald, letter of, to  
Cadwallader Colden, 264; men-  
tioned, 63, 69, 232, 243, 245, 265,  
299, 307, 314, 341, 407.
- Kidnapping, 167.
- King, Mr., observations on Tran-  
sit of Mercury, 394.
- Kings Co., N. Y., 222.
- Kingston, N. Y., 135, 139, 168, 198,  
200.
- Kinnersley, Mr., lectures on elec-  
tricity, 336, 344; experiments of,  
440, 441.
- Knowles, Admiral, 25.
- Knowles, Mr., 82.
- Knox, Capt., 149, 170, 175, 189,  
198, 227, 229.
- Lajanquiere, Marquis de, Governor  
of Canada, 141.
- Lake, Gov. Thomas, of Pennsyl-  
vania, appointed Governor of  
Leeward Islands, 381.
- Lake Champlain, N. Y., 286.
- Lake Erie, 227, 278, 280, 290.
- Lake Huron, 278, 280, 290.
- Lake Ontario, 187, 442.
- Lake Superior, 363.
- Land petitions, 91.
- Land surveys, Schoharie, 329, 331-  
332.
- Lane, Henry, 90.
- Lane, Mr., 142.
- Lane, *see also* Layn.
- Launieres, Mr., 155.
- Lawrence, Alderman, 141.
- Layn, Harry, 90.
- Layn, Mr., 307.

- Layn, *see also* Lane.  
 Leghorn, 104, 106, 107, 114.  
 Leibnitz, Gottfried Wilhelm, Baron von, 328.  
 Leipsic, Germany, 316, 328.  
 Lidius, *see* Lydius.  
 Lightburne, John, 211.  
 Lightning, Franklin's discoveries of, 218, 382.  
 Lignerice, Mr. de, 99, 105.  
 Lincoln, Lord, 313, 391.  
 Lindsay, John, 269.  
 Linnæus, Carolus, letters to, from Cadwallader Colden, 95-99, 256-258; Flora Zeylanica, 252; mentioned, 77, 250, 384, 385, 392, 405.  
 Lisbon, 297.  
 Lisle, de, *see* Delisle.  
 Lithgow, Mr., 113, 195, 301.  
 Livingston, C., 304.  
 Livingston, J., 304.  
 Livingston, James, 76, 189.  
 Livingston, John, 189.  
 Livingston Manor, 189, 303, 332, 333, 401.  
 Livingston, Mr., Clerk of the Peace for Dutchess County, 141.  
 Livingston, Mr., 330.  
 Livingston, Philip, death of, 90, 94, 95, 102; Wraxall has commission to succeed, 267.  
 Livingston, Robert, of the Manor, 189.  
 Livingston, Robert, Secretary of Indian Affairs, 293, 294.  
 Livingston, Robert, Jr., petition of, 332.  
 Livingston, R. R., 303, 304.  
 Livingston, William, 346.  
 Logan, Mr., 219.  
 Logan, Mrs. James, 335.  
 London, Eng., 11, 16, 48, 49, 74, 75, 80, 81, 104, 106, 110, 130, 142, 154, 195, 196, 200, 209, 218, 229, 246, 249, 250, 258, 261, 263, 271, 287, 299, 301, 312, 316, 323, 334, 358, 370, 374, 377, 381, 391, 404, 408, 433, 461, 464.  
*London Magazine*, 384.  
 Lothian, Marquis of, 24.  
 Loudoun, John Campbell, Earl of, 307, 308.  
 Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, 29, 363.  
 Ludlow, Gabriel, complaint of Col. Herring, 83; mentioned, 88.  
 Lydius, Col. John Henry, recommended for Secretary of Indian Affairs, 127, 247; not appointed, 151; letter of, to John Ayscough, 186-187; Indians ask that he dwell at Otter Creek, 203; affidavit of, 203; mentioned, 93.  
 Macao, China, 366.  
 McClaghry, Ensign, Patrick, 10.  
 Macclesfield, Earl of, letters to, from Cadwallader Colden, 370-371, 379-381; mural quadrant of, 372, 382; son of, is member for Oxford County, Eng., 405; mentioned, 358, 373, 374, 377, 381, 382, 383, 391, 392, 396, 405, 406, 408, 414, 418, 437, 449, 474.  
 Macclesfield, Lady, death of, 392, 405.  
 MacCleve, Capt., 409.  
 Machet, Capt., 240, 242.  
 Mackiners, Mr., part owner of Cheesocke patent, 192-193, 194.  
 Maclaurins, Mr., 365.  
 Maisterson, Capt., 209.  
 Map of New York, Evans', 107, 337.  
 Marlborough, Duke of, 259.  
 Marshall, Capt., and repairs on the garrisons, 151, 152.  
 Maryland, 359, 375, 452.  
 Mash, Mathias, 318.  
 Massachusetts Bay trying to draw Mohawks to their frontier, 276; boundary, 333; boundary riots, 401; trade with Indians, 430; commissioners present at the convention to adopt a Plan of Union of the Colonies, 1754, 452, 453; Governor of, 71, 203.  
 Mathews, Col., 3, 189.  
 Mead, Dr., cure for hydrophobia, 354.  
 Mecom, Benjamin, 393.  
 Medicine, *musk*, a specific for convulsions, fevers, hydrophobia, hysteria, mania, 19, 31-32; electrical effluvia used in giving purges, 219; palsy causes death of Mr. Logan, 219; Colden considers scurvy responsible for European inhabitants losing teeth, 261; scurvy is contagious and very prevalent, 261; rheumatismus scorbuticus very common, 261; smallpox in New York, 310, 314; cancer cure by *pokeweed*, 317; uncertainty as to the plant, some suppose it to be *mechoacan*, 323; Colden says



- that it is *phylolacca*, 328; *arum* mentioned, 261, 317; Mead's "Treatise on Poysons" quoted as giving a "certain cure for the bite of a mad dog," 354; death of Mr. Pelham from St. Anthony's fire, 377; Collinson asks Colden to describe sore-throat for Dr. Fothergill, which he does, 392, 447; flux prevalent in August, for which rhubarb is a remedy, 403; James Colden has ague and flux, 403-404.
- Mercury, Transit of, *see* Astronomy.
- Meznard, 209.
- Mico, Mr., 333.
- Militia, English, estimated strength of, 4.
- Militia, mentioned, 1, 4, 162.
- Militia Act, expired, 236.
- Miller, Jacob, 409.
- Miller, P., 392.
- Minisink, N. Y., 470.
- Mirania, College of, 379, 386.
- Mississippi River, 278.
- Mitchell, Dr., illness of, 226; proposed for Postmaster General, 287; abandons the idea, 405; mentioned, 67, 81, 103, 114, 131, 148, 197, 218, 226, 295, 296, 299, 393.
- Mohawk Castle, 187, 274.
- Mohawk Country, 261.
- Mohawk River, 187, 269, 270.
- Monnell, Mr., 155.
- Montgomery, Gov. John, 44; extended jurisdiction of New York, 216.
- Moore, Col., illness of, 90, 100; death of, 141.
- Moore, Mr., spreads scandal about Sir Peter Warren, 202; reports that Sir Peter Warren is to be Governor of N. Y., 209.
- Morris, Col., 232, 266, 267.
- Morris, Lewis, Sr., Governor of New Jersey, 86.
- Morris, Lewis, Sr., Chief Justice, commission as Lt.-Gov., failing Colden, 287, 334; mentioned, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 176, 195, 202, 221, 230, 233, 239, 241, 242, 265, 268, 287, 295, 296, 300, 311, 312, 334, 358.
- Morris, Mr., 7, 222.
- Morris, Staats, 300.
- Mount Johnson, 100.
- Mullender Patent, 384, 399, 400, 401, 434, 436.
- Murray, Joseph, commissioner to Convention at Albany to adopt a Plan of Union of the Colonies, 452; member of the Council of Province of N. Y., 452.
- Murray, Mr., trial of his negro, 142; counsel for Sackett, 169; appears in the "Greyhound" case, 222; Gov. Osborn hangs himself in Murray's garden, 407; mourner at Gov. Osborn's burial, 408; mentioned, 2, 45, 69, 141, 142, 149, 153, 167, 169, 170, 172, 180, 190, 192, 194, 217, 222, 247, 324, 407, 408, 452.
- Muschenbroek, M., 429.
- Nanfan, Lt.-Gov. John, 293.
- Natural history, Kalm sent to America by the Royal Academie, Stockholm, to study, 77; Collinson receives specimens from Cadwallader Colden, 103; account of locusts, 104; Kalm's arrival mentioned by Franklin, 79-80; Kalm asks Cadwallader Colden for an account of locusts, 74, 104, 131; turkeys and wild fowl, mentioned, 146; Kalm preparing a catalogue of North American quadrupeds, 251; asks Colden for a catalogue of fishes, 252.
- Nebuchadnezzar* (ship), 152, 166, 209, 233.
- Negro, Murray's, trial of, 142.
- Negroes desert to Canada, 167.
- Neelly, John, 433.
- Nevill, Mr., 18.
- Newburgh, N. Y., 222, 223, 229, 329, 358, 408.
- New Castle, Duke of, informed by Cadwallader Colden of the state of the public dispute in New York, 21-25; orders of, to Gov. Clinton and Gov. Shirley to maintain Indian expense, 213; political differences between the Duke of Bedford and, 266; letter to, from Cadwallader Colden, 21-25; mentioned, 10, 13, 16, 25, 27, 32, 33, 44, 46, 61, 62, 63, 213, 266, 462.
- Newcastle, Eng., 141, 297.
- New England, 4, 39, 69, 70, 71, 77, 79, 90, 93, 99, 286, 330, 375.
- New Hampshire, 332, 452.

- New Jersey, 216, 291, 364, 375, 452, 453; council of, 295; Governor of, 130. *See* Jerseys.
- New Rochelle, N. Y., 152.
- Newspapers, *Boston Evening Post*, 402; *New York Gazette*, 218.
- Newton, Sir Isaac, 20, 137, 204, 206, 227, 326, 327, 328, 338, 343, 352, 356, 365, 370, 374, 380, 395, 396, 419, 438, 447, 448, 461, 473.
- New Windsor, N. Y., 469.
- New York, Evans' map of, 107, 337.
- New York Gazette*, 218.
- Niagara, French forts at, 164, 203, 279, 280, 283, 284, 288, 290, 291, 294.
- Nicholls, Richard, Postmaster, letter of, to Cadwallader Colden, 155; letter to, from Cadwallader Colden, 14-15.
- Nichols, Mr., 4, 16, 103, 109, 195, 255, 297, 333, 337, 368, 407.
- Nicoll, Benjamin, 193, 295.
- Nicolls, Benjamin, attorney for Ellison, 193.
- Nicolls, Mr., 170, 237.
- Nine Partners grant, 192.
- Nollet, Abbé Jean Antoine, electrical experiments of, 219, 359; David Colden's reply to, 421-430; Franklin's answer to, 437-438; Beccario's letter to, 463; mentioned, 358, 382, 383, 413, 415.
- Norris, Sir John, death of, 141.
- Norris, Mr., treaty with Ohio Indians, 413.
- Norris, Mr., 457, 458.
- North America, 233, 452.
- North Carolina, 452, 453.
- Northampton, 203.
- Northwest passage, Franklin's expedition in search of, 373.
- Nova Scotia, 301.
- Nutten Island, N. Y., 211.
- Oblong, The, N. Y., Colden's lot in, 132, 133, 135, 319; Sackett's patent in, 192, 193, 195.
- Ogden, David, appointed to New Jersey Council, 295.
- Oglethorpe, General, 64.
- Ohio, 461.
- Ohio Indians, Franklin's treaty with, 414; Mr. Norris's treaty with, 413.
- Ohio River, 278, 288, 289; French forts on, 405.
- Oliver, Andrew, secretary to Indian commission, 68.
- Oniagara, *see* Niagara.
- Orange Co., N. Y., commission of the peace and common pleas, 83; mentioned, 3, 4, 76, 193.
- Osborn, Sir Danvers, appointed Governor, 391, 392; death, 407; burial, 408; body taken to England, 448.
- Osborne, Thomas, letter of, to Cadwallader Colden, 64-66, 270-271; Franklin recommended by Colden to, 79; mentioned, 5.
- Oswego, N. Y., troops at, 2; traders take pledges of children from Indians, 167; fort at, 203; mentioned, 187, 273, 274, 275, 276, 279, 280, 281, 283, 284, 285.
- Oswego* (ship), 18, 32, 62, 75.
- Otter Creek, N. Y., 203.
- Oxford, Eng., 138, 207, 316.
- Paris, Ferd. John, letter of, to Cadwallader Colden, 130-131; petition of council of proprietors sent to, 87, 88; instructions sent to, 143; present at meeting of Board of Trade, 144-145; in favor of William Smith for Attorney-General, 149, 312; mentioned, 154, 176, 185, 266, 311.
- Paris, France, 316, 346, 347.
- Parker, James, letter to, from Cadwallader Colden, 353-354; mentioned, 17, 18, 65, 302, 324, 369, 421.
- Parks, —, gunner's mate of "Greyhound," kills Elizabeth Hibbens, 210-212, 213-214, 214-218, 222-223, 223-225, 242.
- Pavonia, N. J., 324.
- Peace, proclaimed, 87.
- Percherd, Nicholas, 412.
- Peeked Mountain, 319.
- Pekin, China, 366.
- Pelham, Henry, to be informed of appointment by Gov. Clinton, 95; to support Gov. Clinton, 190; question of Colden's salary as Surveyor-General laid before, 390, 462; death of, 377-378, 434.
- Pelham, Col., 377.
- Penn, William, patent of, 186.
- Penn, William, mentioned, 379, 458.
- Pennsylvania, 186, 276, 278, 289, 291, 296, 297, 364, 375, 452, 461.

- Pennsylvania, education of youth in, 156.  
 Pennsylvania, Governor of, 381.  
 Pennsylvania Regiment, 469, 470.  
 Perkinsburg, (?), 226.  
 Perry, Mr., 198.  
 Perth Amboy, N. J., 85, 308.  
 Peters, Mr., treaty with Ohio Indians, 413; James Alexander's conversation on Union of Colonies with, 442; commissioner from Pennsylvania to Congress on Union of Colonies, 459.  
 Peters, Mr., mentioned, 442, 457, 458, 460.  
 Philadelphia, Penn., 5, 78, 99, 144, 201, 209, 218, 221, 226, 257, 259, 261, 295, 319, 324, 343, 358, 363, 364, 371, 382, 412, 430, 462, 471.  
 Philadelphia Academy to have an observatory, 219.  
 Phillipse, Frederick, to be Judge, 29; to be succeeded by John Chambers, 311.  
 Phipps, Gov. William, apprehension of rioters demanded from, 401.  
 Pickert, Nicholas, 411.  
 Pieters, Abraham, an Indian, deed from, 409-411.  
 Pieters, David, an Indian, deed from, 409-411.  
 Pieters, Hendrick, an Indian, deed from, 409-411.  
 Pike, Samuel, letters of, to Cadwallader Colden, 396-399; his *Philosophia Sacra*, 398, 415, 431, 462.  
 Plan for the Union of the Colonies, 442-443; scheme for, prepared by Benjamin Franklin, 443-444; comments on, by Cadwallader Colden, 449-451.  
 Pondicheri, 366.  
 Portsmouth, Eng., 307.  
 Poughkeepsie, N. Y., 134.  
 Pownal, Mr., 441, 442.  
 Preston, Dr., 258.  
 Quadrant, additions to, by James Alexander, 375-376; Dyre's contrivance for moving, 388; mentioned, 368, 382, 394.  
 Quebec, Canada, 90, 346, 347, 363.  
 Queen Anne's War, 280, 290, 294.  
 Queens Co., N. Y., Justice of Peace of, 309; mentioned, 120, 311.  
 Read, Mr., 5, 65, 79.  
 Rebellion in Scotland, 1715, 24.  
 Register of Indian affairs in Albany, extracts from, 292-294; mentioned, 290, 292.  
 Rhode Island, 307, 308, 452, 453.  
 Richard, Capt. Stephen, 106.  
 Richards, Capt. William, 267, 268-299.  
 Richmond, Duke of, death of, 249.  
 Rickets, Col., maid servant killed, 211.  
 Rioters, Jersey, 17-18, 86, 144.  
 Robert, King, 306.  
 Roberts, Amos, 130.  
 Robertson, Major, 470.  
 Robinson, Major, 469, 470.  
 Rochester, N. Y., 469, 470.  
 Roddam, Capt. Robert, letters of, to Chief Justice DeLancey, 210, 211; letters to, from James DeLancey, marries Miss Clinton, 110; mentioned, 154, 210, 211, 212, 214, 215, 222, 249, 264, 307.  
 Roddam, Mrs. Robert (Mary Clinton), marriage of, 110; illness of, 233, 237, 239, 242; death of, 245; mentioned, 154.  
*See also* Clinton, Miss.  
 Roome, Mr., 252.  
 Roosevelt, Mr., to retire in favor of Pierre DePeyster, 90.  
 Rowley, Admiral, 141.  
 Royal Society, London, 18, 31, 137, 363, 385, 433, 448.  
 Royall Academy of Sciences, Paris, 363, 433.  
 Russians, 104.  
 Ruth, Major, 75.  
 Rutherford, John, letters of, to Cadwallader Colden, 287, 333-334.  
 Rutherford, Capt., 264, 300, 358, 403.  
 Rutherford, Major, 2, 4, 32, 60, 61, 62, 63, 101.  
 Rutherford, Mr., 221, 222, 240, 243, 245, 308.  
 Ryswick, Peace of, 290.  
 Sackett, John, case of, 132-136, 139-140, 168-169, 179-180, 192-194, 195; patent of, 192; survey of, 318-319; trespass committed by, 132-136, 192-193.  
 Sackett, Richard, 318.  
 St. Frederick, Fort, 203.  
 Sandin, Mr., 98.



- Sandwich, Lord, to succeed Lord Anson, 307.
- Saratoga, N. Y., 28.
- Saunders, Mr., sent to treat with Governor of Canada on exchange of prisoners, 141-155; complaints to, by Governor of Canada, on negro desertions, 168.
- Scarborough* (ship), 11.
- Schenectady, N. Y., 71, 289.
- Schoharie, N. Y., vacant land at, 329, 331-332; grant to Myndert Schuyler, 332.
- Schuyler, David, letter to Mr. Goolding from, 412.
- Schuyler, Myndert, Schoharie land grant, 332.
- Schuyler, Peter, letter to Mr. Goolding from, 412.
- Schuyler, Col. Philip, scouting party under command of, 64; Brother Corlear, Indian name for, 293; complaints of Indian sachems taken to England by, 294; one of the Oswego commissioners, 307.
- Scotland, Rebellion in 1775, 24.
- Scotland, mentioned, 259, 287, 300, 358.
- Scroope, Henry, 106, 107.
- Seely, Ebenezer, 14, 15.
- Sharpe, Mr., 75, 189, 190, 198, 208, 305, 306.
- Shaw, Doctor, 74.
- Sherburn Castle, latitude of, 380, 381.
- Sherburn, William, commissioner from New Hampshire to Congress to consider the Plan of Union of the Colonies, 452.
- Shewington, William, letter to Cadwallader Colden giving his observation of Transit of Mercury, 393-394.
- Sheyborough, Doctor, 68.
- Ships:
- Albany*, 354.
  - Antelope*, 87, 88.
  - Argo*, 373.
  - California*, 373.
  - Charming Rachel*, 312.
  - Dover*, 233, 295, 299, 312, 323, 324, 420.
  - Friendship*, 88.
  - Grace*, 227.
  - Greyhound*, 210.
  - Hutor*, 144.
  - Jamima*, 106.
  - Nebuchadnezzar*, 152, 166, 209, 233.
  - Oswego*, 18, 32, 62, 75.
- Shirley, William, Governor of Massachusetts, letters to, from Cadwallader Colden, 73-74, 119-129; desires to have meeting with Gov. Clinton at Albany, on the expedition against Crown Point, 28-29, 63, 467; expedition recommended by the King to, 33; considers it wiser to use the Indians than to allow them to remain idle, 40; the sending of missionaries by the Society for propagating the gospel among the Indians recommended to, 68; visits New York, 73-74; libels against, 79; to return to England, 114, 130, 145, 149, 468; Cadwallader Colden acknowledges the approbation of, 119; Colden gives account of the political situation in New York to, 119-129; orders from Duke of New Castle in regard to Indian expenses, to, 213; mentioned, 1, 7, 91, 143, 189, 254, 467.
- Skinner, Arent, suit against, 384.
- Smallpox, 310, 314.
- Smith, Richard, of N. J., death of, 295.
- Smith, William, Attorney-General, desires to postpone suit against Oliver De Lancey, 143; petition by Paris, in favor of, 149; opinion on Excise Act, 174; opinion on James De Lancey's action in *Greyhound* case, 213; *Greyhound* case argued before Chief Justice De Lancey by, 222, 223; asks for appointment as Attorney-General, 295; recommended for Attorney-General, 311, 312; familiar with Albertson case, 309; member of Congress for Union of the Colonies, 452.
- Smith, Rev. William, Rector of the Academy at Philadelphia, 379.
- Smith, Mr., part owner of Chees-ocke patent, 192-193, 194; lot of, 362.
- Smyth, Franc, deposition in suit against Oliver De Lancey, 118.
- Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England, bequest of Rev. Dr. Williams to, 68.

- Sole, George, survey of John  
Sackets patent, by, 318.  
South Carolina, 278, 452, 453.  
South, Mr., lawyer for Conklin,  
193.  
Spencer, Elihu, missionary to  
Indians, 68.  
Stairs, Earl of, proposed for Gov-  
ernor-General of all the colonies,  
450.  
Staten Island, N. Y., seals seen on  
the rocks near, 261.  
Stevens, Arent, 389.  
Stevens, Mr., 433.  
Stoddard, Capt. John, 99, 100, 203.  
Stone, Mr., 63.  
Strong, Job, missionary to Indians,  
68.  
Stuart, Mr., professor of natural  
philosophy, 475.  
Susquehanna (Penn.), 68.  
Susquehanna River, 278.  
Sweden, 77, 250.
- Taylor, Mr., 225.  
Ten Eyck, Jacob C., Mayor of  
Albany, 203.  
Thodeys (Col. Michael) Company,  
471.  
Thomas, Sir George, Lt.-Gov. of  
Pa., 209.  
Tinker, Gov., on botany and min-  
eralogy, 472.  
Tonquin, 19.  
Transit of Mercury, *see* Astron-  
omy.  
Trelawny, Mr., 369.  
Trenton, N. J., 209.  
Trinity House, London, 249.  
Turin, Italy, 219, 463.  
Turtle, John, 153.  
Twaine, Mr., commands the *Argo*  
in the expedition in search of  
the Northwest passage, 373.
- Ulster Co., N. Y., 45, 76, 140, 344.  
Union of the Colonies, Plan of,  
1754, discussed by Franklin,  
Peters, and James Alexander,  
442; a scheme prepared by  
Franklin, 442; James Alexander  
comments on Franklin's Hints  
for a Scheme, 442-443; text of  
Franklin's scheme, 443-444;  
Franklin requests Alexander to  
comment on and forward to  
Cadwallader Colden, 444; Col-  
den's comments, 449-451; Con-  
gress at Albany, to consider,  
452-457; commissioners agree on  
a Plan of Union of 11 colonies,  
458; Indians not punctual at,  
458; Colden's and Alexander's  
comments not received till near  
close of session of, 458; Frank-  
lin's remarks on, 457-458, 459;  
Alexander's remarks on 460.  
Utrecht, Treaty of, 279, 288, 289,  
290, 291, 294, 298.
- Vandressen, Peter, Indians pledge  
a boy to, 167.  
Van Ess, Mr., 263.  
Venice, Italy, 219.  
Virginia, commissioner from, to  
Congress at Albany to consider  
a Union of the colonies, 452, 453.  
Virginia, mentioned, 233, 375.
- Waddell, Capt., 10, 30, 106, 148,  
189, 229.  
Wagener, Peter, land grant of, 270.  
Wales, Prince of, birthday of, 90;  
death of, 268.  
Wallkill River, N. Y., 470.  
Walpole, Horace, opposed to grant-  
ing Cadwallader Colden a salary  
as Surveyor-General, 390, 402.  
Walters, Mr., 85, 89.  
Walton, William, nominated, 76;  
candidate to replace Clarkson,  
264.
- Warren, Sir Peter, influential in  
the appointment of James De  
Lancey as Lt.-Gov., 10; retires  
as admiral, 110; advises Sir Wil-  
liam Johnson to retire from  
Indian affairs, 126; Catherwood  
tells Clinton that, intrigued  
for governorship, 190; Moore  
spreads scandal about, 202;  
rumor that, will be governor of  
New York and New Jersey, 209,  
466; mentioned, 13, 21, 33, 62,  
150, 178, 229, 335.
- Water-spouts, 377, 417-418, 420,  
439, 445-446, 463, 474.  
Watson, Admiral, 76.  
Watson, Mr., 218.  
Watkins, Ephraim, 10.  
Watts, Mr., candidate to replace  
Clarkson, 264.  
Watts, Mrs., 302.  
Weiser, Col. Conrad, on French  
influence with Six Nations, 227.  
Welk, Mr., 379.

- Wentworth, Capt., recommends Mr. Albertson for Sheriff of Ulster Co., 309; mentioned, 237, 244, 264.
- Wentworth, Gov. Benning, abstract of letters and boundaries of his government, 170.
- Weseach brook, 318.
- Westchester, N. Y., 220, 387, 431.
- Westerhook River, 37.
- West Indies, 417.
- Wetstein, Rev. Mr., copy of his letter to Prof. Euler on Colden's Principles of action in matter, 355-357.
- Whitsom, Scotland, 72, 146, 262, 403.
- Wilcox, Thomas, 132.
- Willet, Mr., 34.
- William, King, 259.
- William, Prince, death of, 308.
- Williams, Rev. Mr., bequeaths estate for the propagating of the gospel among the Indians, 68.
- Williams, Thomas, land title of, 142; mentioned, 242.
- Willis, Thomas, 225.
- Willson, Mr., 258, 402.
- Wilson, Mr., 352.
- Wolfius [Hieronymus Wolf], 328.
- Wood Creek, N. Y., 286.
- Woolaston, John, deposition in suit against Oliver DeLancey, 118.
- Woolcott, Thomas, letter of, to Cadwallader Colden, 135-136, 179-180; tenant in the Oblong, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 139, 140, 168, 169, 198, 199.
- Wraxall, Peter, commission for survey of Indian affairs and clerk of Albany Co., 267; arrival, 324; mentioned, 27.
- Yorke, Charles, Esq., consulted on land patents, 435.
- Young, Sergt., 300.
- Zenger, 137.











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